



Emergency Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2017-0232-E

Issued: 21 November 2017

Note: This Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) 216/2008 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 of that Regulation.

This AD is issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.301, the continuing airworthiness of an aircraft shall be ensured by accomplishing any applicable ADs. Consequently, no person may operate an aircraft to which an AD applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that AD, unless otherwise specified by the Agency [Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EC) 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS

Type/Model designation(s):

AS 332 helicopters

Effective Date: 22 November 2017

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.002

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 64 – Tail Rotor Hub Assembly – Inspection

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France, Aerospatiale)

Applicability:

AS 332 C, AS 332 C1, AS 332 L and AS 332 L1 helicopters, all manufacturer serial numbers.

Reason:

Damage of flapping hinge link on one of the five tail rotor blades of the tail rotor was reported. Investigation is ongoing to determine the root cause of the damage.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to failure of flapping hinge link and unbalance of the tail rotor with possible detachment of tail rotor gearbox and tail rotor hub (TRH), resulting in loss of control of the helicopter.

To address this potentially unsafe condition and pending further information from the technical investigation, Airbus Helicopters (AH) issued Emergency Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) AS332 64.00.43 (hereafter referred to as 'the ASB' in this AD) to provide inspection instructions.



For the reasons described above, this AD requires a one-time inspection of flapping hinges of the tail rotor blades and, depending on findings, corrective action(s). This AD also requires reporting of the detected findings and sending any cracked components to AH to support the investigation.

This AD is considered to be an interim action and further AD action may follow.

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

- (1) Within 25 flight hours (FH), or during the next scheduled 50 FH inspection of the TRH, whichever occurs later after the effective date of this AD, inspect the flapping hinge of each tail rotor blade in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.
- (2) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any discrepancy is detected as defined in the ASB, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.
- (3) Within the compliance time as identified in Table 1 of this AD, depending on inspection results, report findings to AH using the reporting form and return to AH all the affected cracked components in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Table 1 – Compliance Time

Inspection results	Compliance Time (Days after inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD)
Cracks found	7 days
No cracks	15 days

Ref. Publications:

AH Emergency ASB AS332 64.00.43 original issue dated 21 November 2017.

Remarks:

1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.
2. The results of the safety assessment have indicated the need for immediate publication and notification, without the full consultation process.
3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Airbus Helicopters (EBSESB) – Aéroport de Marseille Provence, 13725 Marignane Cedex, France; Telephone +33 (4) 42 85 97 97; Fax +33 (4) 42 85 99 66; E-mail: Directive.technical-support@airbus.com.

