Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2020-0004

Issued: 09 January 2020

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 129 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 (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:
AIRBUS HELICOPTERS

Type/Model designation(s):
EC 175 B helicopters

Effective Date: 23 January 2020

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.150

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 53 – Fuselage – Lower Fuselage Fuel Tank Structure and Equipment Electrical Connectors – Rework / Relocation

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Manufacturer(s):
Airbus Helicopters (AH)

Applicability:
EC 175 B helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n), if delivered before November 2017, except s/n 5018 and 5025 and those s/n which have embodied AH modification 99A05303-00-M-ECP/00 (P144 - PS - Electric Sling camera routing harness modification under fuel tanks) in production.

Definitions:
For the purpose of this AD, the following definitions apply:

The ASB: AH Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) EC175-53A021, Revision 2.

Reason:
A non-conformity was discovered on certain EC 175 B helicopters, concerning a number of connectors installed under the fuselage.

This condition, if not corrected, may lead to fuel tank damage in case of a forced landing, possibly resulting in a fire with consequent damage to the helicopter and injury to occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, AH published the ASB, providing modification instructions to protect the fuel tanks.

For the reason described above, this AD requires relocation of the affected connectors and rework of certain structural parts.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Modification:

(1) Before exceeding 880 flight hours or within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first, relocate the connectors and rework the applicable structure in accordance with the instructions of section 3 of the ASB.

Credit:

(2) Modification of a helicopter, before the effective date of this AD in accordance with the instructions of section 3 of AH ASB EC175-53A021 at original issue or Revision 1, is an acceptable method to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1) of this AD.

Ref. Publications:

AH ASB EC175-53A021 original issue dated 19 November 2018, or Revision 1 dated 28 March 2019, or Revision 2 dated 17 October 2019.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned document is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.

Remarks:

1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.

2. This AD was posted on 19 December 2019 as PAD 19-218 for consultation until 02 January 2020. No comments were received during the consultation period.

3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Programming and Continued Airworthiness Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.

4. Information about any failures, malfunctions, defects or other occurrences, which may be similar to the unsafe condition addressed by this AD, and which may occur, or have occurred on a product, part or appliance not affected by this AD, can be reported to the EU aviation safety reporting system.

5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact:
   Web portal: https://keycopter.airbushelicopters.com Technical Requests Management, or
   E-mail: support.technical-dyncomp.ah@airbus.com.