

Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2021-0044

Issued: 05 February 2021

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:

LEONARDO S.p.A.

Type/Model designation(s):

AB139 and AW139 helicopters

Effective Date: 12 February 2021

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.006

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 24 – Electrical Power – Overhead Panel – Inspection

Manufacturer(s):

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, formerly Finmeccanica S.p.A, AgustaWestland S.p.A., Agusta S.p.A.; and AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corporation, formerly Agusta Aerospace Corporation

Applicability:

AB139 and AW139 helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n).

Definitions:

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

The ASB: Leonardo Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 139-661.

Groups: Group 1 helicopters are those that are identified by s/n in Appendix 1 of this AD. Group 2 helicopters are those that are not Group 1 helicopters.

Reason:

An occurrence was reported of smoke and fire ignition in the cockpit of an AW139 helicopter. The results of the initial technical investigation identified that the event was caused by a short circuit inside the overhead panel, due to chafing of electrical wiring.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to damaged electrical wiring, possibly resulting in a fire in the overhead panel and consequent loss of control of the helicopter.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Leonardo issued the ASB, providing instructions to inspect the overhead panel cable harnesses, anchor nuts, screws and supports to detect chafing.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires, for certain helicopters, an initial one-time detailed inspection (DET) and, for all helicopters, repetitive inspections of the wiring inside the overhead panel, and depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

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

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection(s):

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Within 25 flight hours (FH) after the effective date of this AD, accomplish a DET inside the overhead panel in accordance with the instructions of Part I of the ASB.
- (2) For Group 1 and Group 2 helicopters: Within the compliance time specified in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 300 FH or 12 months, whichever occurs first, accomplish a DET inside the overhead panel in accordance with the instructions of Part II of the ASB.

Table 1 – Paragraph (2) Initial Inspection

Group	Compliance Time
1	Within 300 FH or 12 months, whichever occurs first after the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD
2	Within 300 FH or 12 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD

Corrective Action(s):

- (3) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) this AD, any discrepancy is detected as specified in the ASB, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s), including application of a white protective tape on the anchor nuts, in accordance with the instructions of Part I of the ASB.
- (4) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) this AD, no discrepancy is detected as specified in the ASB, before next flight, apply a white protective tape on the anchor nuts in accordance with the instructions of Part I of the ASB.
- (5) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, any discrepancy is detected as specified in the ASB, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the instructions of Part II of the ASB.

Terminating Action:

- (6) None.



Reporting:

- (7) Within 30 days after each DET as required by paragraph (1) or (2) of this AD, as applicable, report the results to Leonardo, when discrepancies are detected.

Ref. Publications:

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters ASB 139-661 original issue dated 04 February 2021.

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. Based on the required actions and the compliance time, EASA have decided to issue a Final AD with Request for Comments, postponing the public consultation process until after publication.
3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety 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](#). This may include reporting on the same or similar components, other than those covered by the design to which this AD applies, if the same unsafe condition can exist or may develop on an aircraft with those components installed. Such components may be installed under an FAA Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) or other modification.
5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters. E-mail: cse.aw139.AW@leonardocompany.com.



Appendix 1 – Group 1 Helicopters

Having s/n	Except s/n (which are Group 2 helicopters)
31005 to 31927 inclusive	31789, 31792, 31800, 31803, 31814, 31836, 31899, 31900, 31901, 31902, 31903, 31907, 31916, 31917, 31919, 31921 and 31924
41001 to 41576 inclusive	41562, 41563 and 41574
41801 to 41806 inclusive	

REVISED

