



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2021-0179

Issued: 27 July 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):

AW109SP helicopters

Effective Date: 10 August 2021

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.005

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 25 – Equipment / Furnishings – Hoist Support Assembly – Inspection

Manufacturer(s):

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, formerly Finmeccanica S.p.A., AgustaWestland S.p.A., Agusta S.p.A.

Applicability:

AW109SP helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n).

Definitions:

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

The ASB: Leonardo Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 109SP-143 Revision A.

Affected part: Goodrich hoist support assemblies, having Part Number (P/N) 109-0705V04-301 (Goodrich P/N 44316-505).

Serviceable part: An affected part that has accumulated less than 12 months:

- Since its date of manufacture (indicated on the nameplate); or
- Since it has passed an inspection (no corrosion found) in accordance with the instructions of the ASB; or
- Since it has been declared serviceable by Leonardo or Goodrich following a corrosion finding.



Groups: Group 1 helicopters are those that have an affected part installed.
Group 2 helicopters are those that do not have an affected part installed.

Reason:

Occurrences have been reported of finding corrosion inside the hoist support assembly, affecting both the huck bolt heads and the support surface. Investigation on the root cause for the corrosion is still ongoing.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could affect the structural integrity of the hoist support assembly, possibly leading to in-flight detachment of the hoist support, with consequent damage to the helicopter and/or injury to hoisted person(s).

To address this potential unsafe condition, Leonardo issued the ASB, as defined in this AD, providing inspection instructions.

For the reason described above, this AD requires repetitive inspections of the internal surface of each affected part and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

This AD is considered 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 the compliance time as specified in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 12 months, inspect the affected part in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Table 1 – Initial Inspection

Hoist Support Assembly / Time Accumulated Since New (Date of Manufacture)	Compliance Time
12 months or more	Within 50 flight hours (FH) or 3 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD
Less than 12 months	Whichever occurs later, (A) or (B): (A) Before exceeding 12 months since new (date of manufacture), or (B) Within 3 months or 50 FH, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD

Corrective Action(s):

- (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any signs of corrosion are detected, before next flight, contact Leonardo for approved corrective action instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.



Terminating Action:

(3) None.

Credit:

(4) Inspection(s) and corrective action(s), accomplished on a helicopter before the effective date of this AD in accordance with the instructions of Leonardo ASB 109SP-143 at original issue are acceptable to comply with the initial requirements of this AD for that helicopter.

Parts Installation:

(5) For Group 1 and Group 2 helicopters: From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install on any helicopter an affected part, provided it is a serviceable part, as defined in this AD, and that, following installation, it is inspected as required by this AD.

Ref. Publications:

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters ASB 109SP-143 original issue dated 22 February 2021, or Revision A dated 22 July 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, Customer Support & Services, Product Support Engineering, E-mail: aw109.mbx.aw@leonardocompany.com.

