Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2021-0290
[Correction: 23 December 2021]

Issued: 23 December 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:
AIRBUS HELICOPTERS DEUTSCHLAND GmbH

Type/Model designation(s):
MBB-BK117 D-3 and D-3m helicopters

Effective Date: 06 January 2022
TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.010
Foreign AD: Not applicable
Supersedure: None

ATA 05 – Time Limits / Maintenance Checks – Airworthiness Limitations Section – Amendment

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Manufacturer(s):
Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD)

Applicability:
MBB-BK117 D-3 and D-3m helicopters, all serial numbers.

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

The ALS: Airbus Helicopters (AH) MBB-BK117 Airworthiness Limitations Section (ALS) BK117 D-3 Normal Revision (NR) 001 or MBB-BK117 ALS BK117 D-3m NR 001, as applicable.

The ASB: AH Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) MBB-BK117 D-3-04A-001.

The AMP: The approved Aircraft Maintenance Programme (AMP) on the basis of which the operator or the owner ensures the continuing airworthiness of each operated helicopter. For affected MBB-BK117 D-3 and D-3m helicopters operated under EU regulation, compliance with the approved AMP is required by Commission Regulation (EU) 1321/2014, Part M.A.301, paragraph 3.

New and/or more restrictive tasks and limitations: This includes all tasks and limitations that are new or for which a threshold or interval was reduced, which were introduced into the ALS (as defined in this AD) since the previous ALS Revision that is currently incorporated in the AMP.

Reason:

The airworthiness limitations and certification maintenance instructions for AHD MBB-BK117 D-3 and D-3m helicopters, which are approved by EASA, are currently defined and published in the MBB-BK117 D-3 and D-3m AMM Chapter 04, Airworthiness Limitations Section. These instructions have been identified as mandatory for continued airworthiness.

Failure to accomplish these instructions could result in an unsafe condition.

Recently, AH issued the ALS, as defined in this AD, introducing new and/or more restrictive tasks and limitations, and the ASB, as defined in this AD, introducing a special compliance time for the initial inspection of certain bolts, for which the inspection interval has been reduced in the ALS.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires accomplishment of the actions specified in the ALS.

This AD is republished to correct the effective date.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Maintenance Tasks and Replacement of Life Limited Parts:

(1) From the effective date of this AD, accomplish the following actions, as specified in the ALS, as applicable to helicopter model and depending on helicopter configuration:

(1.1) Replace each component before exceeding the applicable life limit, and

(1.2) Within the thresholds and intervals, accomplish all applicable maintenance tasks (see Note 1 of this AD).

Note 1: The initial inspection of bolts Part Number (P/N) D671M7501201 and P/N D671M7501211, and of mast bolts P/N D620M0501203 can be postponed in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Corrective Action(s):

(2) In case of finding discrepancies (as defined in the ALS) during accomplishment of any task as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, within the compliance time specified in the ALS, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the applicable AHD maintenance documentation. If no compliance time is identified in the ALS, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) before next flight. If a detected discrepancy is not identified in the ALS, before next flight, contact AHD for approved instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.

AMP Revision:

(3) Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, revise the approved AMP by incorporating the limitations, tasks and associated thresholds and intervals described in the ALS, as defined in this AD, as applicable to helicopter model and depending on helicopter configuration.

Credit:

(4) If, before the effective date of this AD, the AMP has been revised to incorporate the maintenance tasks and limitations as specified in a previous revision of the ALS, that action ensures the continued accomplishment of those tasks and limitations.

Consequently, for a helicopter to which that AMP applies, it is acceptable to accomplish the new and/or more restrictive tasks and limitations, as defined in this AD, as applicable to helicopter model and depending on helicopter configuration, within the compliance times as specified in the ALS to comply with paragraph (1) of this AD.

For that AMP, it is acceptable to incorporate the new and/or more restrictive tasks and limitations, as defined in this AD, as applicable to helicopter model and depending on helicopter configuration, into the AMP to comply with paragraph (3) of this AD.

Recording AD Compliance:

(5) When the AMP of a helicopter has been revised as required by paragraph (3) or (4) of this AD, as applicable, that action ensures continued accomplishment of the tasks as required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of this AD for that helicopter. Consequently, after revising the AMP, as required by paragraph (3) or (4) of this AD, as applicable, it is not necessary that accomplishment of individual action is recorded for demonstration of AD compliance on a continued basis.

Ref. Publications:

AH MBB-BK117 D-3 Chapter 04, Airworthiness Limitations Section, NR 001, issue date 14 December 2021.

AH MBB-BK117 D-3m Chapter 04, Airworthiness Limitations Section, NR 001, issue date 1414 December 2021.

AH ASB MBB-BK117 D-3-04A-001 original issue dated 22 December 2021.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned documents 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: Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH, Industriestrasse 4, 86609 Donauwörth, Federal Republic of Germany, Telephone: + 33 (0)4 42 85 97 97;
Web portal: https://airbusworld.helicopters.airbus.com;
E-mail: customersupport.helicopters@airbus.com.