

EASA	AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE
	AD No.: 2014-0188
	Date: 28 August 2014 <p>Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 on behalf of the European Community, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 of that Regulation.</p>
<p>This AD is issued in accordance with EU 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with EC 2042/2003 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 [EC 2042/2003 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [EC 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].</p>	
Design Approval Holder Names: AIRBUS HELICOPTERS AIRBUS HELICOPTERS DEUTSCHLAND GmbH AGUSTAWESTLAND S.p.A.	Type/Model designation(s): SA 365, AS 365, EC 155, AS 332 and EC 225 helicopters MBB-BK117 helicopters AB 212 and AB 412 helicopters
TCDS Numbers: EASA.R.002, EASA.R.010, EASA.R.105 and ENAC Italy A 157.	
Foreign AD:	Not applicable
Supersedure:	None
ATA 25	Equipment & Furnishings – Emergency Flotation System – Rotorcraft Flight Manual (Supplement) Limitation
Manufacturer(s):	Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France, Aerospatiale) Airbus Helicopters Deutschland (formerly Eurocopter Deutschland, Eurocopter Hubschrauber GmbH, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm GmbH) AgustaWestland S.p.A. (formerly Agusta S.p.A)
Applicability:	SA 365 N, SA 365 N1, AS 365 N2, AS 365 N3, EC 155 B, EC 155 B1, AS 332 C, AS332 C1, AS332 L, AS 332 L1, AS 332 L2 and EC 225 LP helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n), MBB-BK 117 A-1, MBB-BK 117 A-3, MBB-BK 117 A-4, MBB-BK 117 B-1, MBB-BK 117 B-2, MBB-BK 117 C-1 and MBB-BK 117 C-2 helicopters, all s/n, and AB 212, AB 412 and AB 412EP helicopters, all s/n, if equipped with Emergency Flotation System, all part numbers, as approved optional kit for ditching provision from the helicopter Manufacturer or by a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC).
Reason:	For the vast majority of the time during public transport and commercial air offshore operations, operational regulations require the helicopter to be equipped with an approved Emergency Flotation System (EFS) to allow ditching, in case any technical failure of the helicopter would prevent continued safe flight.

	<p>The EFS is certificated against airworthiness standards that require demonstrated helicopter ditching performance (i.e. water entry and flotation stability) under “reasonably probable water conditions”. This is defined as at least “sea state 4” water conditions and this has been the performance level to which many EFS designs have been substantiated. More recent designs have been demonstrated to meet the required performance in more severe sea state ranges.</p> <p>Although a demonstrated sea state limit is inherent to any certificated EFS, some operators perform offshore flights without operational restrictions, sometimes operating over sea conditions which are beyond the maximum demonstrated ditching performance of the EFS installed on the helicopter.</p> <p>These demonstrated limits, if unknown or disregarded at the time of planning a flight over water, could potentially result in an unsafe condition, should the aircraft ditch with a sea state beyond its demonstrated capabilities and possibly capsize.</p> <p>The EFS is usually described in the applicable Rotorcraft Flight Manual (RFM), or in a RFM Supplement (RFMS).</p> <p>EASA conducted a review of the RFM of European large rotorcraft primarily operated for offshore or other over-water operations to determine the information they contain pertaining to the various certificated EFSs. The results of that review identified that a disharmonized status existed before 2006, as the certification guidance material did not contain reference to any EFS sea state condition in the Limitations Section of the RFM(S).</p> <p>For some more recently certificated helicopters, the maximum ditching sea state demonstrated during EFS certification is referenced in the Limitations Section of the RFM. For some type designs, there is information in different sections of the RFM to indicate either an accurate sea state value or more general sea water surface description. However, for various other helicopter types, no EFS pertinent sea state information has been found.</p> <p>For the reasons described above, this AD requires amendment of the applicable RFM or RFMS to incorporate information pertaining to the sea state conditions demonstrated during EFS certification as helicopter ditching provisions.</p>									
Effective Date:	01 September 2014									
Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):	<p>Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:</p> <p>(1) For helicopters equipped with EFS as approved optional kit from the helicopter manufacturer, within 3 months after the effective date of this AD, amend the Limitations Section of the RFM or RFMS of the EFS by inserting a copy of Appendix 1 or 2 of this AD (or its text), as applicable, as specified in Table 1 of this AD.</p> <p>This can also be accomplished by incorporating a later applicable RFM(S) approved revision containing text of equal effect to that in Appendix 1 or 2, as applicable, of this AD.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Table 1 - RFM(S) demonstrated Sea State</p> <table><tr><th>Helicopter Type / Model</th><th>Demonstrated Sea State</th><th>AD Appendix</th></tr><tr><td>SA 365 N, SA 365 N1, AS 365 N2 and AS 365 N3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>EC 155 B and EC 155 B1</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	Helicopter Type / Model	Demonstrated Sea State	AD Appendix	SA 365 N, SA 365 N1, AS 365 N2 and AS 365 N3	4	1	EC 155 B and EC 155 B1	4	1
Helicopter Type / Model	Demonstrated Sea State	AD Appendix								
SA 365 N, SA 365 N1, AS 365 N2 and AS 365 N3	4	1								
EC 155 B and EC 155 B1	4	1								

Table 1 (continued) - RFM(S) demonstrated Sea State

Helicopter Type / Model	Demonstrated Sea State	AD Appendix
AS 332 C, AS332 C1 and AS 332 L	4	1
AS 332 L1 without MOD OP.26277	4	1
AS 332 L1 with MOD OP.26277	6	2
AS 332 L2	6	2
EC 225 LP	6	2
MBB-BK 117	4	1
AB 212, AB 412 and AB 412EP	4	1

Note 1: For the purpose of this AD, “sea state” is a reference to the sea state codes from the World Meteorological Organization: sea state 4 describes a “Moderate” sea with significant wave height between 1,25 and 2,5 metres; sea state 6 describes a “Very Rough” sea with significant wave height between 4 and 6 metres.

(2) For helicopters equipped with EFS as optional kit approved by an STC, within 3 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish the following actions concurrently:

(2.1) Review the applicable RFMS of the EFS of the helicopter to determine if the Limitations Section includes the range of demonstrated sea state conditions.

(2.2) If, during the review as required by paragraph (2.1) of this AD, it is determined that the RFMS of the EFS does not include any sea state information, amend the Limitations Section of the RFMS by inserting a copy of Appendix 1 of this AD (or its text) to include “sea state 4” certification criteria (see Note 1 of this AD).

This can also be accomplished by incorporating a later applicable RFMS approved revision containing text of equal effect to that in Appendix 1 of this AD.

Note 2: In case it can be demonstrated (e.g. by certificated data) that helicopter ditching performance for the installed EFS is higher than the sea state condition(s) quoted in the Appendices required to be inserted in the RFM(S) by this AD, EASA can approve an Alternative Method of Compliance (AMOC) to this AD to allow different RFM(S) limitations.

Ref. Publications:

None

Remarks:

1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.
2. This AD was posted on 30 May 2014 as PAD 14-089 for consultation until 20 June 2014. The Comment Response Document can be found at <http://ad.easa.europa.eu>.

3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the Safety Information Section, Executive Directorate, EASA. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact the applicable design approval holder, or the modification design (STC) approval holder, as applicable:

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Note: At the time of issuance of this AD, EASA does not have information concerning existing EFS STC approvals that are validated for installation on helicopters registered in an EASA Member State.

Appendix 1: RFM(S) Amendment - Sea State 4

Emergency Flotation System (EFS) - Limitation**Certification Criteria:**

The EFS performance has been demonstrated for ditching up to **Sea State 4**.

The helicopter is certificated for ditching provided the following additional equipment is fitted and approved in accordance with relevant airworthiness requirement:

- Life rafts with survival equipment,
- Life preservers,
- Survival type emergency locator transmitter.

NOTE: World Meteorological Organization standards describe **Sea State 4** as a "Moderate" sea with significant wave height between 1,25 and 2,5 metres. National Operational Rules apply for flight over water operations.

CAUTION

THIS PAGE MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM THE FLIGHT MANUAL (RFM) UNTIL AN ALTERNATIVE RFM REVISION IS APPROVED AND INCORPORATED IN THE FLIGHT MANUAL

Appendix 2: RFM(S) Amendment - Sea State 6

Emergency Flotation System (EFS) - Limitation**Certification Criteria:**

The EFS performance has been demonstrated for ditching up to **Sea State 6**.

The helicopter is certificated for ditching provided the following additional equipment is fitted and approved in accordance with relevant airworthiness requirement:

- Life rafts with survival equipment,
- Life preservers,
- Survival type emergency locator transmitter.

NOTE: World Meteorological Organization standards describe **Sea State 6** as a "Very Rough" sea with significant wave height between 4 and 6 metres.

National Operational Rules apply for flight over water operations.

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