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| EASA | NOTIFICATION OF A PROPOSAL TO ISSUE AN AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE |
|  | <p>PAD No.: 15-010</p> <p>Date: 06 February 2015</p> <p>Note: This Proposed Airworthiness Directive (PAD) 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>In accordance with the EASA Continuing Airworthiness Procedures, the Executive Director is proposing the issuance of an EASA Airworthiness Directive (AD), applicable to the aeronautical product(s) identified below. All interested persons may send their comments, referencing the PAD Number above, to the e-mail address specified in the 'Remarks' section, prior to the consultation closing date indicated.</p> | |
| <p>Design Approval Holder's Name: AIRBUS HELICOPTERS</p> | <p>Type/Model designation(s): AS 332 L2 and EC 225 LP helicopters</p> |
| <p>TCDS Number: EASA.R.002</p> | |
| <p>Foreign AD: Not applicable</p> | |
| <p>Supersedure: This AD supersedes EASA Emergency AD 2013-0211-E dated 12 September 2013.</p> | |
| ATA 25 | Equipment / Furnishings – Life Raft / Sponson Ejectable Cowlings – Inspection / Modification |
| <p>Manufacturer(s): Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France)</p> | |
| <p>Applicability: AS 332 L2 and EC 225 LP helicopters, all manufacturer serial numbers, if equipped with life rafts in the sponsons.</p> | |
| <p>Reason:</p> <p>An occurrence of loss of a sponson life raft ejectable cowling was reported during an EC 225 helicopter delivery flight. The subsequent investigation results revealed that interference between the life raft release system control cable and an incorrectly positioned (during cowling installation) locking hook of one cowling latch was the failure cause.</p> <p>This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to the in-flight loss of the life raft ejectable cowling, possibly preventing proper inflation of the life raft during an emergency.</p> <p>Prompted by these findings, Eurocopter (since renamed Airbus Helicopters) issued Emergency Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. 25A141 for EC 225 helicopters and ASB No. 25.02.75 for AS332 helicopters to provide inspection instructions.</p> <p>To address and correct this potentially unsafe condition, EASA issued Emergency AD 2013-0211-E to require a one-time inspection of the closing system of the life raft ejectable cowlings of both left-hand (LH) side and right-hand (RH) side sponsons.</p> <p>Since that AD was issued, Airbus Helicopters developed modification 0728088, to install a retaining stop on the locking hooks of the life raft ejectable cowlings</p> | |

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| | <p>and published associated ASB EC225-25A155 and ASB AS332-25.02.89, as applicable to helicopter model, for in-service embodiment.</p> <p>For the reasons described above, this AD retains the requirements of EASA AD 2013-0211-E, which is superseded, and requires modification of the locking hooks of the life raft ejectable cowlings on both LH and RH sponsons.</p> |
| Effective Date: | [TBD: 14 days after final AD issue date] |
| Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s): | <p>Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Before next flight after 14 September 2013 [the effective date of EASA AD 2013-0211-E], inspect the closing system of the LH and RH sponson life raft ejectable cowlings in accordance with the instructions of Eurocopter EC225 ASB No. 25A141 or AS332 ASB No. 25.02.75, as applicable to helicopter model. (2) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any discrepancy, as defined in Eurocopter EC225 ASB No. 25A141 or AS332 ASB No. 25.02.75, as applicable to the helicopter model, is detected, before next flight, accomplish all applicable corrective actions in accordance with the instructions of Eurocopter EC225 ASB No. 25A141, or AS332 ASB No. 25.02.75, as applicable to helicopter model. (3) Within 11 months after the effective date of this AD, modify the locking hooks of life raft ejectable cowlings (both LH and RH sponsons) in accordance with the instructions of Airbus Helicopters ASB EC225-25A-155, or ASB AS332-25.02.89, as applicable to helicopter model. |
| Ref. Publications: | <p>Eurocopter EC225 ASB No. 25A141 original issue, dated 10 September 2013.</p> <p>Eurocopter AS332 ASB No 25.02.75 original issue, dated 10 September 2013.</p> <p>Airbus Helicopters ASB EC225-25A155 original issue dated 14 January 2015.</p> <p>Airbus Helicopters ASB AS332-25.02.89 original issue dated 14 January 2015.</p> <p>The use of later approved revisions of these documents is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.</p> |
| Remarks: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 06 March 2015. 2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate, EASA. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu. 3. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this PAD, please contact: Airbus Helicopters (EBSESB) – Aéroport de Marseille Provence 13725 Marignane Cedex, France; Telephone +33 (4) 42 85 97 97; Fax +33 (4) 42 85 99 66; E-mail: Directive.technical-support@airbus.com. |