



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 17-069

Issued: 08 June 2017

Note: This Proposed Airworthiness Directive (PAD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) 216/2008 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 of that Regulation.

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 date indicated.

Design Approval Holder's Name:

LEONARDO S.p.A.

Type/Model designation(s):

AW169 helicopters

Effective Date: [TBD - 7 days after AD issue date]

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.509

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 32 – Landing Gear – Retraction Actuators – Installation / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Leonardo S.p.A. (formerly Finmeccanica Helicopter Division, AgustaWestland).

Applicability:

AW169 helicopters, serial number (s/n) 69007, 69009, 69011, 69013, 69014, 69015, 69017, 69018, 69020, 69021, 69022, 69023, 69024, 69025, 69027, 69028, 69031, 69032, 69041, 69042, 69043, 69044, 69049 and 69051, and AW169 helicopters, all s/n equipped with retractable landing gear (LG) system Part Number (P/N) 6F3200F00311 or P/N 6F3200F00411.

Reason:

Several occurrences were reported of failed nose landing gear (NLG) retraction actuators of AW169 helicopters during the acceptance test procedures on ground on the final assembly line. The NLG got stuck at approximately 45° angle (half of the full stroke) regardless of the selected extension mode (normal or emergency). Investigation revealed that excessive friction inside the NLG retraction actuator caused internal damage, resulting in mechanical jam of the actuator rotary shaft. Due to similarity of design, the same failure mode can affect the main landing gear (MLG) retraction actuators.



This condition, if not corrected, could lead to a partially locked or unlocked NLG or MLG upon landing, possibly resulting in damage to the helicopter and injury to the occupants.

As an interim measure to address this potential unsafe condition, Leonardo designed a modification to inhibit the LG retraction for helicopters equipped with affected retraction actuators, and issued Bollettino Tecnico 169-005, providing instructions to install that modification on in-service helicopters. Leonardo also designed a modification to remove affected retraction actuators, allowing delivery of helicopters still on the production line. Subsequently, Leonardo developed improved LG retraction actuators that allow restoring the LG intended function, and issued Mandatory Bollettino Tecnico 169-018, providing instructions to install those actuators on in-service helicopters. Recently, Leonardo issued Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 169-023, hereafter referred to as “the ASB” in this AD, providing additional instructions to install improved control box and proximity switches, and to protect repetitively the plungers of the NLG and MLG up down lock actuators against corrosion.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires modification of helicopters by removing all affected LG retraction actuators from service, installing the improved LG retraction actuators, control box and proximity switches, and a one-time application of corrosion inhibitor on the plungers of the NLG and MLG up down lock actuators.

Leonardo ASB 169-023 provides instructions for repetitive application of corrosion inhibitor/protection. Since this is considered as standard practice maintenance, those actions are not required by this AD.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Note 1: For the purpose of this AD, Group 1 helicopters are those that, on the effective date of this AD, are not equipped with enhanced NLG retracting actuator P/N 6F3230V00532 and enhanced MLG retracting actuators P/N 6F3230V00832 and P/N 6F3230V01032. Group 2 helicopters are those that are not Group 1.

Note 2: The ASB defines the helicopters by s/n for which the actions listed in each Part of the instructions of the ASB are required.

Modification:

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Within 200 flight hours (FH) or 6 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, modify the helicopter in accordance with the instructions of Part I or Part II or Part III of the ASB, as applicable to helicopter s/n, and of Parts IV and V of the ASB.
- (2) For Group 2 helicopters: Within 200 FH or 6 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, accomplish the installation checks in accordance with the instructions of Part VI of the ASB, and the modification in accordance with the instructions of Parts IV and/or V of the ASB, as applicable.



Inspection:

- (3) For Group 1 helicopters: Concurrently with the modification as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, inspect the plungers of the NLG and MLG up down lock actuators in accordance with the instructions of Part VII of the ASB.
- (4) For Group 2 helicopters: Within 50 FH or 30 days, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, inspect the plungers of the NLG and MLG up down lock actuators in accordance with the instructions of Part VII of the ASB.

Corrective Action(s):

- (5) If, during the modification and/or the installation checks as required by paragraph (1) or (2) of this AD, as applicable, any discrepancy is detected, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the instructions of the ASB, or contact Leonardo for approved corrective action instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.
- (6) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (3) or (4) of this AD, as applicable, corrosion is detected, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) and apply corrosion inhibitor on the plungers of the NLG and MLG up down lock actuators in accordance with the instructions of Part VII of the ASB.
- (7) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (3) or (4) of this AD, as applicable, no corrosion is detected, before next flight, apply corrosion inhibitor on the plungers of the NLG and MLG up down lock actuators in accordance with the instructions of Part VII of the ASB.

Ref. Publications:

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters ASB 169-023 original issue, dated 31 May 2017.

The use of later approved revisions of this document is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.

Remarks:

- 1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 22 June 2017.
- 2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
- 3. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this PAD, please contact: Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, Customer Support & Services
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