

Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2018-0104R1
Issued: 08 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

Type/Model designation(s):

EC 130 helicopters

Effective Date: Revision 1: 15 December 2021
 Original issue: 11 May 2018

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.008

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Revision: This AD revises EASA AD 2018-0104 dated 04 May 2018, which superseded EASA AD 2017-0080 dated 05 May 2017.

ATA 53 – Fuselage – Tail Boom / Fenestron Junction Frame – Inspection

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (AH), formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France

Applicability:

EC 130 B4 and EC 130 T2 helicopters, all serial numbers, except those on which Airbus modification (mod) 074775 or mod 074581 has been embodied.

Definitions:

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

The ASB: AH EC 130 Emergency Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 05A017 Revision 6, or later approved revisions.

The modification SB: AH Service Bulletin (SB) EC130-53-036.

Sling cycles: Counting/Cycles as defined in AH ASB 05A017 Revision 2, or later approved revisions.

Groups: Group 1 helicopters are those in pre-mod AH 350A087421 or pre-SB EC130-53-029 configuration. Group 2 helicopters are those in post-mod AH 350A087421 or post-SB EC130-53-029 configuration. Group 3 helicopters are Group 1 or Group 2 helicopters which are post-mod 074609,

or on which the skin in the fenestron/tail boom junction area was repaired in accordance with the instructions of SB EC130-53-024.

Reason:

Following inspection of EC 130 helicopters, two events were reported of finding crack propagation through the junction frame of the tail boom/fenestron. The investigation revealed that the cracks initiated in the lower right-hand part of the frame between the web and the flange, where the lower spar of the tail boom is joined. Although the cracks were of significant length, no deterioration was visible from the outside of the helicopter.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to structural failure, possibly resulting in fenestron detachment and consequent loss of control of the helicopter.

To initially address this potential unsafe condition, AH issued ASB 05A017 at original issue (later revised) to provide instructions for detailed visual inspections (DVI) on the inside of the tail boom. Prompted by these findings, EASA issued Emergency AD 2014-0145-E (later revised) to require repetitive inspections of the affected area and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

Following further developments involving multiple revisions of AH ASB 05A017, EASA AD 2014-0145R1 was superseded by EASA Emergency AD 2015-0033-E (later revised), EASA AD 2015-0033R1 was superseded by EASA AD 2016-0240, subsequently superseded by EASA Emergency AD 2017-0066-E, each time retaining the previous AD requirements. EASA then issued AD 2017-0080, retaining the requirements of EASA Emergency AD 2017-0066-E, which was superseded, and additionally requiring removal of the stabilizer before the cleaning and visual inspection of the frame during each 660 flight hour (FH) inspection of Group 2 helicopters.

After EASA AD 2017-0080 was issued, in parallel to the protective measures developed over time, AH designed a new modification, mod 074775, consisting of 4 carbon patches on the EC 130 fenestron/tail cone junction, and published the modification SB, as defined in this AD, accordingly. After implementation of this design change, either in production or in service through a retrofit (the modification SB), the inspections were no longer necessary. Based on the available information, EASA determined that continued inspections may not be sufficient to adequately address the risk and this modification is necessary to ensure long-term fleet safety, and consequently issued AD 2018-0104, which superseded EASA AD 2017-0080, retaining its requirements and mandating modification of the affected helicopters as terminating action for the repetitive inspections required by that AD.

Since AD 2018-0104 was issued, AH developed mod 074581 and issued ASB 05A017 Revision 8, to exclude the post-mod 074581 helicopters from the Applicability. This AD is therefore revised accordingly. This AD also includes editorial changes, introducing the latest AD writing standards, without affecting the requirements.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:



Inspection(s)/Cleaning:

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Within the compliance time as specified in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, accomplish the cleaning and a DVI of the frame web in the radius between the web and the flange on the tail cone side in accordance with the instructions of paragraphs 3.B.5 and 3.B.1 of the ASB.

Table 1 – Inspection Threshold

FH accumulated (see Note 1)	Compliance Time
Less than 325 FH	Before exceeding 350 FH
325 FH or more, but less than 675 FH	Within 25 FH after 25 April 2017 [the effective date of EASA AD 2017-0066-E]
675 FH or more, but less than 690 FH	Before exceeding 700 FH
690 FH or more	Within 10 FH after 25 April 2017 [the effective date of EASA AD 2017-0066-E]

Note 1: Unless specified otherwise, the FH referenced in Table 1 of this AD are those accumulated by the junction frame since first installation on a helicopter.

- (2) Within 25 FH or 390 sling cycles (see Note 2 of this AD), whichever occurs first after the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 25 FH or 390 sling cycles, whichever occurs first, inspect the frame web in the radius between the web and the flange on the tail cone side in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.1 or 3.B.2 of the ASB.
- (3) Within 150 FH after the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 150 FH, accomplish the cleaning and a DVI of the frame web in the radius between the web and the flange on the tail cone side in accordance with the instructions of paragraphs 3.B.5 and 3.B.1 of the ASB.

Note 2: See Definitions in this AD.

- (4) For Group 2 helicopters: Before exceeding 350 FH accumulated by the junction frame since first installation on a helicopter, or within 10 FH after modification (SB EC130-53-029 installation in-service), whichever occurs later, accomplish a visual inspection of the tail boom from outside in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.3 of the ASB.
- (5) Within 10 FH or 250 sling cycles, whichever occurs first after the inspection as required by paragraph (4) of this AD, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 10 FH or 250 sling cycles, whichever occurs first, accomplish a visual inspection (see Note 3 of this AD) of the tail boom from outside in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.3 of the ASB.

Note 3: The visual inspection as specified in paragraph 3.B.3 (a) of the ASB may be carried out by the pilot.



- (6) Within 660 FH after the inspection as required by paragraph (4) of this AD, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 660 FH, remove the stabilizer and accomplish the cleaning and a DVI of the frame web in the radius between the web and the flange on the tail cone side in accordance with the instructions of paragraphs 3.B.5 and 3.B.1 of the ASB.

Credit:

- (7) Accomplishment of a cleaning and a DVI on a helicopter, as required by paragraph (3) of this AD, is acceptable for compliance with an inspection as required by paragraph (2) of this AD for that helicopter.
- (8) Accomplishment of a cleaning and a DVI on a helicopter, as required by paragraph (6) of this AD, is acceptable for compliance with an inspection as required by paragraph (5) of this AD for that helicopter.

Corrective Action(s):

- (9) If, during any inspection as required by this AD, any crack is detected, before next flight, contact AH for approved repair instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.

Modification:

- (10) For Group 1 and Group 2 helicopters, except Group 3 helicopters: Within 56 months after 11 May 2018 [the effective date of the original issue of this AD], modify the tail boom/fenestron junction (mod 074775) in accordance with the instructions of the modification SB.
- (11) For Group 3 helicopters: Contact Airbus Helicopters to define the conditions for embodiment of modification 074775 and, within 56 months after 11 May 2018 [the effective date of the original issue of this AD], modify the helicopter accordingly.

Terminating Action(s):

- (12) Repair of a helicopter, as required by paragraph (9) of this AD, does not constitute terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by this AD for that helicopter, unless explicitly indicated in those repair instructions.
- (13) Modification of a helicopter as required by paragraph (10) or (11) of this AD, as applicable, constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by this AD for that helicopter, except as specified in paragraph (14) of this AD.

Part(s) Installation:

- (14) Installation of a replacement (new/previously not installed) junction frame on a helicopter is allowed, provided that, before exceeding 350 FH after installation, cleaning and a DVI of the frame web in the radius between the web and the flange on the tail cone side is accomplished, in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.5 and 3.B.1 of the ASB, and, following installation, the helicopter is inspected as required by paragraph (2) and (3), or (5) and (6) of this AD, as applicable.

Ref. Publications:

AH EC130 Emergency ASB No. 05A017 Revision 2 dated 20 February 2015, or Revision 3 dated 07 March 2016, or Revision 4 dated 30 November 2016, or Revision 5 dated 21 April 2017, or



Revision 6 dated 03 May 2017, or Revision 7 dated 21 March 2018, or Revision 8 dated 06 December 2021.

AH SB EC130-53-029 original issue dated 20 February 2015, or Revision 1 dated 27 January 2016.

AH SB EC130-53-036 Revision 01 dated 21 March 2018.

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. The original issue of this AD was posted on 27 March 2018 as PAD 18-045 for consultation until 10 April 2018. The Comment Response Document can be found in the [EASA Safety Publications Tool](#), in the compressed (zipped) file attached to the record for this AD.
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 Customer Support, Telephone +33 (0)4.42.85.97.89, Fax + 33 (0)4.42.85.99.66, E-mail: support.technical-airframe.ah@airbus.com, Airbus World: Technical Request Management: <https://airbusworld.helicopters.airbus.com>.

