



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 18-049

Issued: 09 April 2018

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:

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS DEUTSCHLAND GmbH

Type/Model designation(s):

EC135 and EC635 helicopters

Effective Date: [TBD - standard: 14 days after AD issue date]

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.009

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 64 – Tail Rotor – Blade – Life Limit

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD), formerly Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH, Eurocopter España S.A.

Applicability:

EC135 P1, EC135 P2, EC135 P2+, EC135 P3, EC135 T1, EC135 T2, EC135 T2+, EC135 T3, EC635 P2+, EC635 P3, EC635 T1, EC635 T2+ and EC635 T3 helicopters, all variants, all serial numbers.

Definitions:

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

The ASB: Airbus Helicopters (AH) Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) EC135-64A-006 and ASB EC135H-64A-001, as applicable.

Affected part: Tail rotor blades having Part Number (P/N) L642A2002101, and a serial number as listed in the ASB.

Basic FH: Flight hours (FH) accumulated by an affected part since first installation on a helicopter, not taking into account the compensation hours as defined in the ASB.



Recalculated FH: FH recorded for an affected part since first installation on a helicopter, including the 5 200 compensation FH as defined in the ASB.

Serviceable part: A tail rotor blade that is not an affected part, or an affected part which has not exceeded 6 800 basic FH, or 12 000 recalculated FH.

Groups: Group 1 are EC135 T3, EC135 P3, EC635 T3 and EC635 P3 helicopters in “Helionix” configuration. Group 2 are helicopters not included in Group 1. For Group 2 helicopters, EASA AD 2017-0243 requires accomplishment of the actions as specified in the AH Master Servicing Manual (MSM) Revision 23, Chapter 04. For Group 1 helicopters, a separate and “Helionix” dedicated AH MSM Revision 01, Chapter 04, is part of the basic Type Definition.

Reason:

Deviations in the manufacturing process of certain tail rotor blades have been identified, which affect the life limit.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead to failure of an affected tail rotor blade, possibly resulting in loss of control of the helicopter.

To address this potential unsafe condition, AH issued the ASB, identifying the affected parts and providing instructions to reduce the available service life.

For the reason described above, this AD requires removal from service of the affected parts by implementation of a reduced life limit.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Part Replacement:

- (1) Before exceeding 6 800 basic FH, or within 100 FH after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, replace each affected part with a serviceable part. Using the instructions of the applicable maintenance manual is an acceptable method to replace a part as required by this paragraph.
- (2) Updating the maintenance records of an affected part in accordance with the instructions of the ASB and, thereafter, replacing that part before exceeding the applicable life limit, as identified in the applicable MSM, is an acceptable method to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1) of this AD for that part.

Parts installation:

- (3) From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install an affected part on a helicopter, provided the affected part is a serviceable part and that, following installation, the part is removed from service as required by this AD.

Ref. Publications:

AH ASB EC135-64A-006 original issue dated 20 February 2018.



AH ASB EC135H-64A-001 original issue dated 20 February 2018.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned documents is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.

Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 07 May 2018.
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: Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH, Industriestrasse 4, 86609 Donauwörth, Federal Republic of Germany
Telephone: + 49 (0)151 1422 8976; Facsimile: + 49 (0)906 71 4111
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