



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 18-051

Issued: 10 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

Type/Model designation(s):

EC 225 LP helicopters

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.002

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 67 – Rotors Flight Control – Collective Controls / Protective Cover – Modification

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France, Aerospatiale)

Applicability:

EC 225 LP helicopters, all serial numbers.

Definitions:

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

The ASB: Airbus Helicopters (AH) Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) EC225-67A017.

Affected part: Pilot and copilot collective sticks, Part Number (P/N) 704A41110139 (equipment manufacturer NSE MP/N N2000355).

Groups: Group 1 helicopters are those that have an affected part installed. Group 2 helicopters are those that do not have an affected part installed. A helicopter that has embodied AH modification (mod) 332P084165 in production is a Group 2 helicopter, provided the helicopter remains in that configuration.



Reason:

Mechanical deformation was found on the protective cover (also referred to as switch guard) of the "SHEAR" control pushbutton installed on a copilot collective stick. Incorrect handling was identified as the root cause for the deformation.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead to unintended shearing of the hoist cable, possibly resulting in loss of hoisted load or person(s).

To address this potential unsafe condition, AH developed mod 332P084165, introducing an improved protective cover for the "SHEAR" control pushbutton, and issued the ASB to provide modification instructions.

For the reason described above, this AD requires replacement of the protective cover of the "SHEAR" control pushbutton, and re-identification (new AH P/N 704A41110149, new NSE MP/N 00014100AA) of the pilot and copilot collective sticks. This AD also prohibits installation of the old design protective cover.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Modification:

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Within the compliance time as specified in Table 1 of this AD, modify the helicopter by replacing the protective cover of the "SHEAR" control pushbutton and re-identify the pilot and copilot collective sticks in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Table 1 – Protective Cover Replacement / Collective Stick Re-identification

| Helicopter configuration | Compliance Time |
|--|---|
| "SHEAR" control associated with a hoist installation | Within 3 months after the effective date of this AD |
| "SHEAR" control not associated with a hoist installation | Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, or upon connecting the "SHEAR" control with an installation, whichever occurs first |

Parts Installation:

- (2) Do not install on any helicopter a "SHEAR" control pushbutton protective cover P/N 700070 on the pilot or copilot collective stick, and do not install on any helicopter a pilot or copilot collective stick P/N 704A41110139 (NSE P/N N2000355), as required by paragraph (2.1) or (2.2) of this AD, as applicable.

(2.1) For Group 1 helicopters: After modification of the helicopter as required by paragraph (1) of this AD.

(2.2) For Group 2 helicopters: From the effective date of this AD.



Ref. Publications:

AH ASB EC225-67A017 original issue dated 26 March 2018.

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

Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 08 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 (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.

