



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2018-0284

Issued: 20 December 2018

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 DEUTSCHLAND GmbH

Type/Model designation(s):

EC135 and EC635 helicopters

Effective Date: 27 December 2018

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.009

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 67 – Rotors Flight Control – Main Rotor Actuator – Inspection

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 (s/n).

Definitions:

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

The applicable ASB: Airbus Helicopters Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) EC135-67A-033 and EC135H-67A-007, as applicable.

Affected part: Main rotor actuator (MRA) having Part Number (P/N) L673M20A1005, P/N L673M30A2011 or P/N E673M30A2001.

Serviceable part: An MRA which is not an affected part; or an affected part which has accumulated 0 flight hours (FH) since new or since last overhaul, as applicable; or an affected part that, before installation, has passed an inspection (no defects found) in accordance with the instructions of Section 3.B.2 of the applicable ASB.



Groups: Group 1 are EC135 and EC635 helicopters having s/n up to 2070 inclusive. Group 2 helicopters are all EC135 and EC635 helicopters having another s/n.

Reason:

An occurrence was reported on an AHD EC135 helicopter of increased control force in the collective axis. Subsequent inspections identified that a nut on a piston of the MRA was cracked and displaced.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to loss of control of the helicopter, possibly resulting in damage to the helicopter and/or injury to occupants.

To address this unsafe condition, AH issued the applicable ASB, providing instructions to visually inspect the affected parts, and to report the inspection results to AHD.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires a one-time inspection of the affected parts and reporting of inspection results to AHD. This AD also provides criteria to allow installation of an affected part.

This AD is considered an interim action and further AD action may follow.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection:

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Within 3 months or 50 FH, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, inspect each nut (3) on each piston of the affected part in accordance with the instructions of Section 3.B.2 of the applicable ASB.

Reporting:

- (2) Within 15 days after the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD or within 15 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, report the inspection results to AHD. This can be done in accordance with the instructions of the applicable ASB.

Corrective action:

- (3) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any damage or finding, as identified in the applicable ASB, is detected, before next flight, contact AHD for approved instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.
- (4) Replacement of an affected part on a helicopter with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of the applicable Aircraft Maintenance Manual is an acceptable alternative method to comply with the requirement of paragraph (3) of this AD for that helicopter.



Parts Installation:

- (5) For Group 1 and Group 2 helicopters: From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install on any helicopter an affected part, provided it is a serviceable part, as defined in this AD.

Ref. Publications:

AH ASB EC135-67A-033 original issue dated 28 November 2018.

AH ASB EC135H-67A-007 original issue dated 28 November 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. This AD was posted on 03 December 2018 as PAD 18-167 for consultation until 17 December 2018. No comments were received during the consultation period.
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](#).
5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH, Industriestrasse 4, 86609 Donauwörth, Federal Republic of Germany
Telephone: + 49 (0)151 1422 8976;
Web portal: <https://keycopter.airbushelicopters.com> > Technical Request Management
E-mail: customersupport.helicopters@airbus.com.

