


<b>EASA</b>	<b>EMERGENCY AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE</b>
	<b>AD No.: 2012-0130-E</b>  <b>Date: 13 July 2012</b>  Note: This Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 on behalf of the European Community, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 of that Regulation.
This AD is issued in accordance with EC 1702/2003, Part 21A.3B. In accordance with EC 2042/2003 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 [EC 2042/2003 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [EC 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].	
<b>Design Approval Holder's Name:</b> AEROPHILE S.A.	<b>Type/Model designation(s):</b> 5500 tethered gas balloons
TCDS Number:	DGAC France TC No192
Foreign AD:	Not applicable
Supersedure:	None
<b>ATA 51</b>	<b>Standard Practices and Structure – General – Envelope Rip Panel – Inspection</b>
Manufacturer(s):	Aérophile S.A.
Applicability:	5500 tethered gas balloon, serial numbers 024, 026, 028, 032, 033, 034, 035, 036 and 038.
Reason:	<p>One event was reported on a tethered gas balloon, where the rip panel was unexpectedly opened.</p> <p>Technical investigations are on-going to understand the cause of the event.</p> <p>A defect in the closing of the rip panel, if not detected and corrected, could result in a rapid deflation of the envelope, ultimately leading to a hard landing, during which balloons occupants and persons on the ground could be injured.</p> <p>To address this potential unsafe condition, Aérophile SA issued Service Bulletin (SB) No BS120705Rev 2, which requires accomplishment of repetitive inspections of the rip panel to detect an opening of the envelope.</p> <p>For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive inspections of the rip panel, and, depending on findings accomplishment of a repair as described in the maintenance manual.</p>
Effective Date:	17 July 2012

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):	<p>Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Within 7 days after the effective date of this AD, and, thereafter at intervals not to exceed 7 days, accomplish a visual inspection and a pressure test of the balloon envelope in accordance with Aerophile SB BS120705 Rev 2.</li> <li>(2) If, during any action as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, a discrepancy is identified, before next flight, accomplish a repair of the envelope in accordance with Aerophile Maintenance Manual Chapter 2 Revision 5.</li> <li>(3) Accomplishment of a repair of the envelope, as required by paragraph (2) of this AD does not constitute terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by paragraph (1) of this AD.</li> </ol>
Ref. Publications:	<p>SB Aérofile N° BS120705 Rev 2 dated 5 July 2012.</p> <p>The use of later approved revisions of this document is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.</p>
Remarks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.</li> <li>2. The results of the safety assessment have indicated the need for immediate publication and notification, without the full public consultation process.</li> <li>3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the Safety Information Section, Executive Directorate, EASA. E-mail: <a href="mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu">ADs@easa.europa.eu</a>.</li> <li>4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Aerophile SA Mathieu Gobbi Tel: +33140604090 Email: <a href="mailto:gobbi@aerophile.com">gobbi@aerophile.com</a></li> </ol>

CANCELLED