



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 20-055

Issued: 27 March 2020

Note: This Proposed Airworthiness Directive (PAD) 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.

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 120 B and EC 130 B4 helicopters

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.508 and EASA.R.008

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: This AD supersedes EASA AD 2015-0020 dated 11 February 2015.

ATA 52 – Doors – Sliding Door Star Support – Modification

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (AH), formerly Eurocopter (EC), Eurocopter France

Applicability:

EC 120 B helicopters, the serial number (s/n) of which is less than or equal to 1673, except s/n 1596; and

EC 130 B4 helicopters, all s/n, except those that have embodied EC modification (MOD) 07 3796, or MOD 07 2921 in production.

Definitions:

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

Affected part: Sliding doors, having Part Number (P/N) C526A2370101, or P/N C526S1101051, as applicable to helicopter model.



The applicable ASB: AH Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) EC120-52A018 and ASB EC130-52A019, both at Revision 01, as applicable.

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.

Reason:

A case was reported where, after landing, the passengers of an AH EC 120 helicopter could not open the sliding door from inside. The passengers had to leave the helicopter through the other door. The results of the subsequent investigation revealed a sliding door star axle support failure.

This condition, if not corrected, could delay the evacuation from the helicopter in case of emergency, possibly resulting in injury to the occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, EC published ASB EC120-52A014 and ASB EC130-52A009 to provide modification instructions, and EASA issued AD 2013-0093 to require modification of the sliding door star support.

After that AD was issued, AH revised ASB EC120-52A014 to correct the Applicability, to all s/n helicopters with an affected part installed, except those in a specific MOD configuration. Consequently, EASA issued AD 2015-0020, retaining the requirements EASA AD 2013-0093, which was superseded, and expanding the Applicability of EC 120 B helicopters.

Since that AD was issued, several incidents on the left-hand side doors (swing and sliding) revealed some weaknesses in the locking mechanism. Prompted by these occurrences, AH developed an improved instructions of the replacement process of the rod ends and installation process of the reinforcements. To address these clarifications and to expand the Applicability, AH issued ASB EC120-52A018 and ASB EC130-52A019, both now at Revision 01.

For the reason described above, this AD retains the requirements of EASA AD 2015-0020, which is superseded, expands the Applicability and requires modification of the sliding door star support using improved instructions for rod ends replacement and installation of reinforcements.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Modification:

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Within 24 months after the effective date of this AD, modify the door locking/unlocking mechanism in accordance with the instructions of the applicable ASB.

Parts Installation:

- (2) Do not install an affected part on any helicopter, as required by paragraph (2.1) or (2.2) of this AD.
 - (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.



Credit:

- (3) Modification of a helicopter, before the effective date of this AD, in accordance with the instructions of original issue of ASB EC120-52A018 and ASB EC130-52A019 is acceptable to comply with the requirement of paragraph (1) of this AD for that helicopter.

Ref. Publications:

Eurocopter ASB EC120-52A018 original issue dated 13 November 2015, or Revision 01 dated 12 July 2016.

AH ASB EC130-52A019 original issue 18 April 2016, or Revision 01 dated 12 July 2016.

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

Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 24 April 2020.
2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the EASA Programming and Continued Airworthiness Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
3. Information about any failures, malfunctions, defects or other occurrences, which may be similar to the unsafe condition addressed by this PAD, and which may occur, or have occurred on a product, part or appliance not affected by this PAD, can be reported to the [EU aviation safety reporting system](#).
4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this PAD, please contact: Airbus Helicopters - Aéroport de Marseille Provence 13725 Marignane Cedex, France. Telephone +33 (0) 4 42 85 97 97, Fax +33 (0) 4 42 85 99 66.
E-mail: support.technical-airframe.ah@airbus.com,
Web portal: <https://keycopter.airbushelicopters.com> > Technical Requests Management.

