



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 20-166

Issued: 13 October 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/cancellation 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: This AD supersedes EASA AD 2018-0284 dated 20 December 2018.

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.

Definitions:

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

The applicable ASB: Airbus Helicopters (AH) Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) EC135-67A-042 and ASB EC135H-67A-014, as applicable.

Affected part: Main rotor actuators (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 less than 12 months since new or since last overhaul, as applicable; or an affected part that, within



12 months 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 helicopters are those that have an affected part installed. Group 2 helicopters are those that do not have an affected part installed.

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 had cracked and separated from the piston rod.

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 ASB EC135-67A-033 and EC135H-67A-007, providing instructions to visually inspect the affected parts. Consequently, EASA issued AD 2018-0284 to require a one-time inspection of the affected parts and reporting of inspection results to AHD.

Since that AD was issued, it was determined that repetitive inspections of affected parts are necessary, and AH issued the applicable ASB accordingly.

For the reason stated above, this AD supersedes EASA AD 2018-0284, and requires repetitive inspection of affected parts. 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:

Repetitive Inspections:

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Before an affected part exceeds 12 months since new, or since last overhaul, or within 3 months after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 12 months (see Note 1 of this AD), inspect each nut on each piston (see Note 2 of this AD) of the affected part in accordance with the instructions of Section 3.B.2 of the applicable ASB.

Note 1: A non-cumulative tolerance of 3 months may be applied to the initial threshold and to the repetitive inspection interval specified in paragraph (1) of this AD to allow synchronization of the required inspections with other maintenance tasks, for which a non-cumulative tolerance is already granted in the applicable Maintenance Manual.

Note 2: An affected part includes 3 pistons, each one having one nut.

Corrective Action:

- (2) If, during any 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.



- (3) 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 requirements of paragraph (2) of this AD for that helicopter.

Alternative Method of Compliance:

- (4) Inspection of an affected part on a helicopter, accomplished in accordance with the instructions of AH ASB EC135-67A-033, or SB EC135-67A-040, or ASB EC135H-67A-007 or SB EC135H-67A-012, is an acceptable alternative method to accomplish the inspections as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that helicopter.

Terminating Action:

- (5) None.

Parts Installation:

- (6) 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-042 original issue dated 07 July 2020.

AH ASB EC135H-67A-014 original issue dated 07 July 2020.

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 10 November 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](#). This may include reporting on the same or similar components, other than those covered by the design to which this PAD applies, if the same unsafe condition can exist or may develop on an aircraft with those components installed. Such components may be installed under an FAA Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) or other modification.
4. 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: + 33 (0)4 42 85 97 97;
Web portal: <https://keycopter.airbushelicopters.com> > Technical Request Management
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