



## Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

**PAD No.: 21-088**

**Issued: 16 June 2021**

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 175 B helicopters

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

**TCDS Number(s):** EASA.R.150

**Foreign AD:** Not applicable

**Supersedure:** This AD supersedes EASA AD 2019-0148R1 dated 27 April 2021.

### ATA 55 – Stabilizers – Horizontal Stabilizer – Inspection / Replacement

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**Manufacturer(s):**

Airbus Helicopters (AH)

**Applicability:**

EC 175 B helicopters, all serial numbers, except those on which AH modification (mod) 99A05341 has been embodied in production.

**Definitions:**

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

**The inspection ASB:** AH EC175 Emergency Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 05A030.

**The modification ASB:** AH ASB EC175-55A009.

**Reason:**

During daily inspection, a crack was found on the horizontal stabilizer skin and on the horizontal stabilizer main spar.



This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to partial loss of the horizontal stabilizer, possibly resulting in loss of control of the helicopter.

To address this potential unsafe condition, AH issued the inspection ASB, as defined in this AD, providing instructions to inspect the horizontal stabilizer main spar for cracks and, consequently, EASA issued Emergency AD 2019-0148-E to require repetitive inspections of the horizontal stabilizer main spar and, depending on findings, replacement of the horizontal stabilizer. That AD was considered an interim action, pending the development of a dedicated modification.

After that AD was issued, AH developed mod 99A05341, which permanently addresses the above described potential unsafe condition. Consequently, EASA issued AD 2019-0148R1 to reduce the Applicability by excluding post-mod 99A05341 helicopters.

Since that AD was issued, AH published the modification ASB, providing in-service modification instructions. It was decided that this mod is necessary to ensure an acceptable level of safety.

For the reason described above, this AD retains the requirements of AD 2019-0148R1, which is superseded, and requires installation of a reinforced horizontal stabilizer and stabilizer rod assemblies.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

#### **Repetitive Inspections:**

- (1) Before next flight after 25 June 2019 [the effective date of EASA Emergency AD 2019-0148-E], and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 10 flight hours (FH), inspect the horizontal stabilizer main spar in accordance with the instructions of Paragraph 3.B of the inspection ASB.

#### **Corrective Action(s):**

- (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any crack is found on the horizontal stabilizer main spar, before next flight, replace the affected horizontal stabilizer with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of Paragraph 3.B of the inspection ASB.

#### **Modification:**

- (3) Within 1 800 FH or 18 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, replace the horizontal stabilizer with a reinforced horizontal stabilizer and install stabilizer rod assemblies, in accordance with the instructions of Paragraph 3 of the modification ASB.

#### **Terminating Action:**

- (4) Accomplishment on a helicopter of corrective action(s) 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 for that helicopter.
- (5) Modification of a helicopter as required by paragraph (3) of this AD constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that helicopter.



- (6) Modification of a helicopter as required by paragraph (3) of this AD constitutes terminating action for the requirements of EASA AD 2020-0132R1 for that helicopter.

**Ref. Publications:**

AH EC175 Emergency ASB 05A030 original issue dated 20 June 2019, or Revision 1 dated 05 May 2021.

AH ASB EC175-55A009 original issue dated 05 May 2021.

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 14 July 2021.
2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto: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 (Technical Support), web portal: <https://keycopter.airbushelicopters.com> Technical Requests Management, or e-mail: [support.technical-airframe.ah@airbus.com](mailto:support.technical-airframe.ah@airbus.com), and [TechnicalSupport.Helicopters@airbus.com](mailto:TechnicalSupport.Helicopters@airbus.com).

