



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 21-107

Issued: 23 July 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):

AS 332 and EC 225 helicopters

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.002

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: This AD supersedes EASA AD 2021-0003 dated 06 January 2021.

ATA 11 – Placards and Markings – Emergency Exit Placards – Installation

Manufacturer(s):

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

Applicability:

AS 332 C, AS 332 C1, AS 332 L, AS 332 L1, AS 332 L2 and EC 225 LP helicopters, all manufacturer serial numbers, equipped with at least one cabin plug door, having Part Number (P/N) 332A221301.XX, P/N 332A251406.XX or P/N 332P222000.XX, where XX represents any number.

Definitions:

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

The applicable ASB: AH Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) AS332-11.00.06 Revision Rev. 2 and ASB EC225-11A002 Rev. 2, as applicable.

Reason:

During review of existing emergency exit placards, attached to or located near to the cabin plug doors (both left-hand (LH) and right-hand (RH) sides), to verify that they provide an accurate illustration of the proper method of plug doors emergency opening, it was identified that in some cases, these placards could be confusing for passengers.



This condition, if not corrected, could prevent jettisoning of a cabin plug door, possibly preventing safe evacuation from the helicopter during an emergency and resulting in injury to occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, AH issued ASB AS332-11.00.06 and ASB EC225-11A002 (original issue) to provide additional emergency exit placards with improved operating and control instructions. Consequently, EASA issued AD 2021-0003 making those instructions mandatory for helicopters equipped with at least one cabin plug door, having P/N 332A221301.XX, P/N 332A251406.XX.

Since that AD was issued, an additional cabin plug door, P/N 332P222000.XX, was identified as affected by the potential unsafe condition addressed by that AD. Additionally, AH determined the need to provide improved placards installation instructions and add additional tolerances. Prompted by these determinations, AH issued the applicable ASB, as defined in this AD.

For the reasons described above, this AD retains the requirements of EASA AD 2021-0003, which is superseded, and expands the Applicability to include helicopters with a P/N 332P222000.XX cabin plug door and improved placards installation instructions.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Placard Installation:

- (1) Within the compliance time as defined in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable to the cabin plug door, install the additional emergency exit placards on the cabin plug doors (RH and LH sides) in accordance with the instructions of the applicable ASB.

Table 1 – Installation of Emergency Exit Placards

Cabin Plug Door P/N	Compliance Time
332A221301.XX or 332A251406.XX	Within 12 months after 20 January 2021 [effective date of EASA AD 2021-0003]
332P222000.XX	Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD

Parts Installation:

- (2) From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install on any helicopter a cabin plug door (RH or LH side), provided that, prior to installation, the additional emergency exit placards are installed on that cabin plug door in accordance with the instructions of the applicable ASB.

Credit:

- (3) Installation of additional emergency exit placards on a helicopter, before the effective date of this AD in accordance with the instructions of original issue or Revision 1 of AH ASB AS332-11.00.06 or original issue or Revision 1 of AH ASB EC225-11A002, as applicable, is an acceptable method to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1) of this AD for that helicopter.



Ref. Publications:

AH ASB AS332-11.00.06 original issue dated 09 September 2020, or Revision 1 dated 08 January 2021, or Revision 2 dated 22 July 2021.

AH ASB EC225-11A002 original issue dated 09 September 2020, or Revision 1 dated 08 January 2021, or Revision 2 dated 22 July 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 20 August 2021.
2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the EASA Safety 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 (Technical Support), Aéroport de Marseille Provence 13725 Marignane Cedex, France, Telephone +33 (0)4 42 85 97 97, Fax +33 (0)4 42 85 99 66, Web portal: <https://airbusworld.helicopters.airbus.com> Technical Requests Management, E-mail: TechnicalSupport.Helicopters@airbus.com.

