



Notification of a Proposal to cancel an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 24-070-CN

Issued: 17 June 2024

Note: This Proposed Cancellation Notice (CN) 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 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

Type/Model designation(s):

AS 350 and AS 355 helicopters

Effective Date: [TBD - standard: same date as AD-CN issue date]

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.008, EASA.R.146

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Cancellation: This Notification proposes to cancel EASA AD 2012-0257-E dated 05 December 2012.

ATA 64 – CANCELLED: Tail Rotor – Laminated Half-Bearings – Inspection / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (AH), formerly Eurocopter

Applicability:

AS 350 B, AS 350 BA, AS 350 BB, AS 350 B1, AS 350 B2 and AS 350 D helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n).

AS 350 B3 helicopters, all s/n, except helicopters that embody modification (MOD) 075601.

AS 355 E, AS 355 F, AS 355 F1, AS 355 F2, AS 355 N and AS 355 NP helicopters, all s/n.

Note: MOD 075601 is an integral part of a specific AS 350 B3 model configuration, commercially identified as "AS350B3e" and is not fitted on AS 350 B3 model helicopters of other configurations.



Reason:

Premature failures of laminated half-bearings equipping tail rotor blades were detected on several AS 350 B3 helicopters post-MOD 075601. Three cases of vibrations originating from the tail rotor were also reported, detected in flight on affected helicopters, following which precautionary landings were performed. The cause of vibration was identified as failure of the laminated half-bearings.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to failure of the tail rotor in flight, possibly resulting in loss of control of the helicopter.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Eurocopter issued Safety Information Notice 2482-S-64 and AS350 Service Bulletin (SB) 05.00.71 and AS355 SB 05.00.63 to remind all operators of the particular attention that must be given during the visual check of the elastomeric part of the laminated half-bearings during the “after the last flight of the day” check. After publication of those documents, other occurrences involving an AS 350 B3 post-MOD 075601 helicopters were reported.

Additionally, it has been confirmed that due to the criticality of the laminated half-bearings, their inspections should be a preventive measure also for helicopter in pre-MOD 075601. Consequently, Eurocopter issued AS350 EASB 05.00.71 Revision 1 and AS355 EASB No. 05.00.63 Revision 1, providing instructions for repetitive post-flight inspections of the laminated half-bearings on AS 350 and AS 355 helicopters which do not embody MOD 075601, and EASA issued AD 2012-0257-E to require repetitive inspections of the tail rotor laminated half-bearings and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective actions.

Since EASA AD 2012-0257-E was issued, AH revised the Aircraft Maintenance Manual Chapter 04 – Airworthiness Limitations Section (ALS), as applicable to helicopter model, including the repetitive inspections addressed by that AD. Consequently, EASA issued PAD 24-068 and PAD 24-069 notifying proposals to issue future ADs, requiring accomplishment of the actions specified in the applicable ALS, and taking over the requirements of EASA AD 2012-0257-E, which, therefore, has become redundant.

For the reason described above, this Notice proposes to cancel EASA AD 2012-0257-E.

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

None.

Ref. Publications:

Eurocopter AS350 EASB No. 05.00.71 Revision 1 dated 26 November 2012.

Eurocopter AS355 EASB No. 05.00.63 Revision 1 dated 26 November 2012.

Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD-CN will be closed for consultation on 01 July 2024.
2. Enquiries regarding this PAD-CN should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate; E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.



3. For any question concerning the technical content of this PAD-CN, please contact:
Airbus Helicopters (Technical Support)
E-mail: TechnicalSupport.Helicopters@airbus.com
Airbus World: Technical Request Management: <https://airbusworld.helicopters.airbus.com>.

