



Safety Information Bulletin

Airworthiness

SIB No.: 2019-03

Issued: 27 February 2019

Subject: Main Rotor Damper Link – Inspection / Degradation Monitoring

Ref. Publications:

Leonardo S.p.A. In-Service Event letter (ISE) 169009E dated 22 October 2018.

Leonardo S.p.A. Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 169-101 original issue dated 24 October 2018.

Applicability:

All AW 169 helicopters equipped with main rotor damper links Part Number 6F6220V00452.

Description:

Several occurrences have been reported on AW 169 helicopters of main rotor (MR) damper link premature removal, due to degradation. Investigation showed that this was due to inner member debonding from the inboard elastomeric bearing, or cracks in the metallic shims and the external layers of subjects bearing. MR damper link degradation could lead to a high level of vibration in flight and reduced control of the helicopter.

Prompted by these events, Leonardo S.p.A. is developing an improved design of the MR damper link, which will increase the reliability of the component and the robustness of its installation. Pending the availability of the improved part, Leonardo S.p.A. issued ISE 169009E and ASB 169-101, to inform operators and provide instructions to inspect the MR damper links at reduced intervals.

At this time, the safety concern described in this SIB is not considered to be an unsafe condition that would warrant any Airworthiness Directive (AD) action under Regulation (EU) [748/2012](#), Part 21.A.3B.

Recommendation(s):

EASA recommends operators of affected helicopters to accomplish actions in accordance with the instructions of Leonardo ISE 169009E and ASB 169-101.

Contact(s):

For further information contact the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate.

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For any question concerning the technical content of this SIB, please contact: Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, E-mail: pse_aw169.mbx.aw@leonardocompany.com.

This is information only. Recommendations are not mandatory.

