



Airworthiness Directive

D-1997-249R1

Luftfahrt-Bundesamt

Airworthiness Directive Section
Hermann-Blenk-Str. 26
38108 Braunschweig
G E R M A N Y

This Airworthiness Directive supersedes the LBA-Airworthiness Directive 97-249 of 25 September 1997

EUROCOPTER DEUTSCHLAND

Effective Date: 31 January 2006

Affected:

Kind of aeronautical product: Helicopter
Manufacturer: Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH, Donauwörth, Germany
Type: EC135
Models affected: EC135P1 and EC135T1
Serial Numbers affected: All serial numbers (S/N) equipped with a fenestron tail rotor stator with the manufacturer part number (P/N) L535A4201101 (order no. L535A4201052)
Note:
Helicopters on which the FAA airworthiness directive 2000-26-02, Amdt. 39-12049 has been performed are not affected by this airworthiness directive.
German Type Certificate No.: 3061

Subject:

Cracks in stator blades of the fenestron tail rotor.

Reason:

The Luftfahrt-Bundesamt had been informed by the manufacturer about the occurrence of cracks in the fenestron tail rotor stator blades with the manufacturer part number (P/N) L535A4201101 (order no. L535A4201052) on EC135 helicopter models. Therefore, the Luftfahrt-Bundesamt published the airworthiness directive D-1997-249 in order to prevent failure of the tail rotor and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter. This airworthiness directive required daily visual inspections and dye-penetrant inspections and, if cracks beyond the allowable tolerances were found during the required inspections, replacement of the affected stators. With respect to the existing design problems the manufacturer has developed the improved stator blade assembly, P/N L535A4201102 (order no. L535A4201053), incorporating a reinforced base and modified riveting.

The Luftfahrt-Bundesamt has been informed by the manufacturer that all affected stator blades with the manufacturer part number (P/N) L535A4201101 (order no. L535A4201052) have been replaced and all affected stator blades held as spare parts have been scrapped meanwhile and thus has decided to withdraw the airworthiness directive D-1997-249 with immediate effect.

Action:

Cancellation of the Luftfahrt-Bundesamt airworthiness directive D-1997-249.

Compliance:

With immediate effect.

Technical publication of the manufacturer:

Eurocopter Deutschland Alert Service Bulletin ASB-EC135-53A-001, Revision 05, of 18 January 2006. This Service Bulletin becomes herewith part of this AD and can be obtained from:

EUROCOPTER DEUTSCHLAND GmbH
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86607 Donauwörth
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EASA-Approval

Approved by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) under approval no. 2006-0038 on 31 January 2006.