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| <b>EASA</b>  | <b>AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE</b>   |
|   | <p><b>AD No.: 2013-0080</b></p> <p><b>Date: 26 March 2013</b></p> <p>Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 on behalf of the European Community, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 of that Regulation.</p>   |
| <p>This AD is issued in accordance with EU 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with EC 2042/2003 Annex I, Part M.A.301, the continuing airworthiness of an aircraft shall be ensured by accomplishing any applicable ADs. Consequently, no person may operate an aircraft to which an AD applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that AD, unless otherwise specified by the Agency [EC 2042/2003 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [EC 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].</p> |  |
| <b>Design Approval Holder's Name:</b>  | <b>Type/Model designation(s):</b>  |
| AGUSTAWESTLAND S.p.A.  | AB 204 B and AB 205 A-1 helicopters  |
| TCDS Number:   | ENAC Italy A370  |
| Foreign AD:  | Not applicable   |
| Supersedure:   | None   |
| <b>ATA 62</b>  | <b>Main Rotor – Main Rotor Hub Inboard Strap Fitting – Inspection / Replacement</b>  |
| Manufacturer(s):   | AgustaWestland S.p.A. (formerly Agusta S.p.A.)   |
| Applicability:   | AB 204B and AB 205 A-1 helicopters, all serial numbers.  |
| Reason:  | <p>Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. determined that main rotor hub (MRH) inboard strap fittings may have been manufactured not in accordance with approved design requirements, thus resulting more fragile, with possible development of cracks.</p> <p>This condition, if not detected and corrected, could result in failure of the fitting, loss of a main rotor blade, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.</p> <p>To address this unsafe condition, the FAA issued AD 2013-03-16 applicable to Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. helicopters.</p> <p>Due to the design commonality, the possibility that inboard strap fitting assemblies manufactured by Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. could have been installed on AgustaWestland helicopters cannot be excluded and AgustaWestland issued Alert Bollettino Tecnico (BT) 204-125 for AB 204B helicopters and Alert BT 205A1-133 for AB 205 A-1 helicopters, giving instructions for inspections of the MRH inboard strap fittings.</p> <p>For the reasons described above, this AD requires an initial Magnetic Particle Inspection (MPI) of MRH inboard strap fittings Part Number (P/N) 204-012-102-001, P/N 204-012-102-005 and P/N 204-012-102-009 and repetitive magnetic particle inspections (MPI) of all the main rotor hub inboard strap fittings with P/N 204-012-102-001, P/N 204-012-102-005 and P/N 204-012-102-009, as well as accomplishment of the applicable corrective actions.</p> |
| Effective Date:  | 02 April 2013  |

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| <p>Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):</p> | <p>Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Within 25 hours or 15 days, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, accomplish the following actions concurrently: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1.1) Identify the serial number (s/n) of the P/N 204-012-102-001, P/N 204-012-102-005 and P/N 204-012-102-009 MRH inboard strap fittings installed on the helicopter.</li> <li>(1.2) If the s/n is below A-07500, accomplish an MPI of each P/N 204-012-102-001, P/N 204-012-102-005 and P/N 204-012-102-009 MRH inboard strap fitting in accordance with the instructions of AgustaWestland Alert BT 204-125 or Alert BT 205A1-133, as applicable.</li> <li>(1.3) If no crack is detected during the MPI as required by paragraph (1.2) of this AD, before installing the fitting on a helicopter, re-identify the fitting with suffix FM in accordance with the instructions of AgustaWestland Alert BT 204-125 or Alert BT 205A1-133, as applicable.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Note: P/N 204-012-102-001 MRH inboard strap fitting is only eligible for installation on AB 204B helicopters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(2) For all P/N 204-012-102-001, P/N 204-012-102-005 and P/N 204-012-102-009 MRH inboard strap fittings, during the next scheduled 1 200 FH torsion-tension (TT) strap replacement after the effective date of this AD, and thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 1 200 FH or 24 months, whichever occurs first, accomplish an MPI in accordance with the instructions of AgustaWestland Alert BT 204-125 or Alert BT 205A1-133, as applicable.</li> <li>(3) If, during any MPI as required by paragraphs (1.2) and (2) of this AD, any crack is detected, before next flight, replace the affected MRH inboard strap fitting with a serviceable part.</li> <li>(4) From the effective date of this AD, do not install on any helicopter a P/N 204-012-102-001, P/N 204-012-102-005 and P/N 204-012-102-009 MRH inboard strap fitting, except those having serial numbers A-07500 and higher, unless the strap fitting has passed the MPI and has been re-identified with suffix FM in accordance with the instructions of AgustaWestland Alert BT 204-125 or Alert BT 205A1-133, as applicable.</li> </ol> |
| <p>Ref. Publications:</p>                         | <p>AgustaWestland Alert BT 204-125, dated 19 March 2013.<br/> AgustaWestland Alert BT 205A1-133, dated 19 March 2013.</p> <p>The use of later approved revisions of these documents is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.</p>  |
| <p>Remarks:</p>                                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.</li> <li>2. Based on the required actions and the compliance time, EASA have decided to issue a Final AD with Request for Comments, postponing the public consultation process until after publication.</li> <li>3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the Safety Information Section, Executive Directorate, EASA. E-mail: <a href="mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu">ADs@easa.europa.eu</a>.</li> <li>4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact:<br/> AgustaWestland S.p.A. Customer Support -<br/> Via del Gregge, 100 - 21015 Lonate Pozzolo (VA) – Italy<br/> Telephone + 39 0331 664873; Fax: + 39 0331 664680;<br/> E-mail: <a href="mailto:absereing@agustawestland.com">absereing@agustawestland.com</a>.</li> </ol>   |