


<b>EASA</b>	<b>AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE</b>
	<p><b>AD No.: 2014-0070</b></p> <p><b>Date: 19 March 2014</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>	
<p><b>Design Approval Holder's Name:</b> ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY</p>	<p><b>Type/Model designation(s):</b> R44 helicopters</p>
TCDS Number:	EASA.IM.R.121
Foreign AD:	None
Supersedure:	None
<b>ATA 28</b>	<b>Fuel – Tank – Replacement</b>
Manufacturer:	Robinson Helicopter Company
Applicability:	R44 helicopters, serial numbers (s/n) 0001 through 2064, and R44 II helicopters, s/n 10001 through 12890.
Reason:	<p>The United States National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigated a number of R44 helicopter accidents in which the fuel tanks were breached, resulting in leaking fuel and a post-crash fire. While analysis showed that these events should all have been survivable with minor or no injuries to the occupants, they resulted in fatalities and serious thermal injuries.</p> <p>Prompted by these occurrences, in 2010 Robinson Helicopter Company issued R44 Service Bulletin (SB) SB-78, currently at Revision B, providing instructions for helicopters with aluminium fuel tanks to be retrofitted to add bladder-type tanks and associated fuel system components.</p> <p>To address this safety issue, the FAA issued Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) SW-13-11 to recommend incorporation of SB-78B, as the new bladder tank and fuel system components will improve the R44 fuel system's resistance to a post-accident fuel leak and possible fire. This FAA SAIB was endorsed by EASA.</p> <p>More recently, based on investigation results, the NTSB issued Safety Recommendation A-14-001. In light of the additional information provided by the NTSB, the Agency has now determined that this safety issue must be considered an unsafe condition that warrants AD action.</p> <p>For the reasons described above, this AD requires retrofit-installation of bladder-type fuel tanks.</p>
Effective Date:	02 April 2014

<p>Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):</p>	<p>Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:</p> <p>Within 24 months after the effective date of this AD, modify the helicopter in accordance with the instructions of Robinson Helicopter Company SB-78, which references Kit Instructions (KI) KI-196 R44-series Bladder Fuel Tank Installation.</p>
<p>Ref. Publications:</p>	<p>Robinson Helicopter Company SB-78 original issue dated 20 December 2010, or SB-78A dated 21 February 2012, or <a href="#">SB-78B</a> dated 28 September 2012.</p> <p>Robinson Helicopter Company KI-196, Revision A dated 5 January 2011, or <a href="#">Revision B</a> dated 10 January 2011.</p> <p>FAA SAIB <a href="#">SW-13-11</a>, dated 26 December 2012.</p> <p>NTSB Safety Recommendation <a href="#">A-14-001</a>, dated 15 January 2014.</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. This AD was posted on 13 February 2014 as PAD 14-038 for consultation until 13 March 2014. The Comment Response Document can be found at <a href="http://ad.easa.europa.eu/">http://ad.easa.europa.eu/</a>.</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 the Robinson Helicopter Company, 2901 Airport Drive, Torrance, California 90505, United States of America, Telephone: +1 310-539-0508, Fax: +1 (310) 539-5198. Website/E-mail <a href="#">Technical Support</a>.</li> </ol>