


EASA	NOTIFICATION OF A PROPOSAL TO ISSUE AN AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE
	<p>PAD No.: 12-088</p> <p>Date: 25 July 2012</p> <p>Note: This Proposed Airworthiness Directive (PAD) 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>In accordance with the EASA Continuing Airworthiness Procedures, the Executive Director is proposing the issuance 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 closing date indicated.</p>	
Design Approval Holder's Name: EUROCOPTER	Type/Model designation(s): AS 350 and AS 355 helicopters
TCDS Number: EASA.R.008, EASA.R.146	
Foreign AD: Not applicable	
Supersedure: None	
ATA 52	Doors – Sliding Door Lower Ball-joint – Modification
Manufacturer(s):	Eurocopter (formerly Eurocopter France, Aerospatiale)
Applicability:	AS 350 B, AS 350 BA, AS 350 BB, AS 350 B1, AS 350 B2, AS 350 B3 and AS 350 D helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n), and AS 355 E, AS 355 F, AS 355 F1, AS 355 F2, AS 355 N and AS 355 NP helicopters, all s/n, if equipped with sliding doors, except those that embody modification AL. 4262.
Reason:	<p>During a patrol flight with the sliding doors open, the right-hand (RH) sliding door became detached and was lost in flight without hitting the helicopter. Upon return from the mission, it was found that the nut of the ball-joint bolt was missing, which caused the ball-joint bolt to detach from doors and the RH sliding door to fall off. When checking the left-hand (LH) sliding door, it was found that the nut of the ball-joint bolt was not tightened and could be unscrewed by hand. The self-locking characteristics of the nut of the ball-joint bolt were lost. The same condition, probably due to a defective assembly consisting in reuse of disposable parts and/or improper nut tightening, is assumed to be the reason of ball-joint bolt attachment failure in the RH sliding door.</p> <p>Lack of protection against unscrewing of the nut of the ball-joint bolt, if not corrected, could lead to the loss of the door in flight potentially resulting in damage of the surrounding rotorcraft structures and/or injuries to persons on the ground.</p> <p>For the reasons described above, in order to improve the nut protection against unscrewing, by adding a non-friction locking device, this AD requires embodiment of modification AL 4262 which consists in replacement of the nut</p>

	and the washer of the lower ball-joint bolt with a new nut and lock-washer.
Effective Date:	[TBD: 14 days after final AD issue date]
Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):	<p>Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:</p> <p>Within 165 flight hours or 13 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, replace the lower ball-joint nut and washer of each sliding door with a new nut and lock-washer (modification AL. 4262) in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.2 of Eurocopter Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) AS350-52.00.34 or SB AS355-52.00.26, as applicable to the helicopter model.</p>
Ref. Publications:	<p>Eurocopter ASB AS350-52.00.34 dated 09 July 2012.</p> <p>Eurocopter ASB AS355-52.00.26 dated 09 July 2012.</p> <p>The use of later approved revisions of these documents is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.</p>
Remarks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 22 August 2012. 2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the Safety Information Section, Executive Directorate, EASA. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu. 3. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this PAD, please contact: EUROCOPTER (STDI) – Aéroport de Marseille Provence 13725 Marignane Cedex, France; telephone +33 (4) 42 85 97 97; facsimile +33 (4) 42 85 99 66; E-mail: Directive.technical-support@eurocopter.com.