


EASA	NOTIFICATION OF A PROPOSAL TO ISSUE AN AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE
	<p>PAD No.: 14-038</p> <p>Date: 13 February 2014</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: ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY	Type/Model designation(s): R44 helicopters
TCDS Number:	EASA.IM.R.121
Foreign AD:	None
Supersedure:	None
ATA 28	Fuel – Tank – Replacement
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 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:	[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 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>
Ref. Publications:	<p>Robinson Helicopter Company SB-78 original issue dated 20 December 2010, or SB-78A dated 21 February 2012, or SB-78B dated 28 September 2012.</p> <p>Robinson Helicopter Company KI-196, Revision A dated 5 January 2011, or Revision B dated 10 January 2011.</p> <p>FAA SAIB SW-13-11, dated 26 December 2012.</p> <p>NTSB Safety Recommendation A-14-001, dated 15 January 2014.</p>
Remarks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 13 March 2014. 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 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 Technical Support.