



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2021-0131R1

Issued: 25 April 2023

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 129 of that Regulation.

This AD is issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I Part M.A.301, or Annex Vb Part ML.A.301, as applicable, 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 [Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I Part M.A.303, or Annex Vb Part ML.A.303, as applicable] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:

AEROLITE AG

Type/Model designation(s):

Installation of 3-Stretcher Unit Assembly

Effective Date: Revision 1: 02 May 2023
Original issue: 03 June 2021

STC Number(s): EASA Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) 10061971

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Revision: This AD revises EASA AD 2021-0131 dated 20 May 2021.

ATA 11 – Placards and Markings – Stretcher Unit / Placard – Installation

Manufacturer(s):

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, formerly Finmeccanica S.p.A, AgustaWestland S.p.A.

Applicability:

AW189 helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n), if modified by the original issue of EASA STC 10061971 issued to Aerolite AG (installation of 3-stretcher Kit Part Number (P/N) 189-0213100-501).

Definitions:

For the purpose of this AD, the following definitions apply:

The ASB: Aerolite AG Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 21-007.

The modification SB: Aerolite AG Service Bulletin (SB) SB-22-027.

Reason:

A design deficiency was identified, affecting the primary stretcher unit, P/N 002-0217037-501, of the 3-stretcher Kit P/N 189-0213100-501 installed by Aerolite AG STC on AW189 helicopters.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead, in case of an emergency landing, to failure of the primary stretcher, possibly resulting in injury to helicopter occupants.



To address this potential unsafe condition, Aerolite AG determined a weight limit of 61 kg for the primary stretcher occupant and designed a placard, P/N 080-0312690-001, with that limitation. Aerolite AG issued the ASB accordingly, providing instructions for placard installation and EASA issued AD 2021-0131 to require installation of the placard on the primary stretcher.

Since that AD was issued, Aerolite AG developed modification (mod) DECEASA60079369 improving the structural strength of the stretcher unit P/N CI-2010-321-00 (part of the primary stretcher unit P/N 002-0217037-501), which is not affected by the unsafe condition addressed by this AD. Consequently, EASA issued Revision 1 of EASA STC 10061971 making Aerolite AG mod DECEASA60079369 part of the design change. Aerolite AG also issued SB-22-027 providing instructions for reinforcement of the stretcher, update of the Rotorcraft Flight Manual and placard replacement for helicopters having embodied the original issue of EASA STC 10061971, which allows removal of the restrictions imposed by the original issue of this AD.

For the reasons described above, this AD is revised to limit the Applicability.

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):

Placard Installation:

- (1) Within 30 flight hours after 03 June 2021 [the effective date of the original issue of this AD], install a placard on the primary stretcher in accordance with the instructions of the ASB, inform all affected flight crew and medical crew members and, thereafter, ensure the placard remains installed and visible.
- (2) An AW189 helicopter modified in accordance with the instructions of the modification SB is not affected by the requirements of this AD, provided that the helicopter remains in that configuration. After modification of a post-ASB helicopter in accordance with the instructions of the modification SB, the placard installed in accordance with the requirement of paragraph (1) of this AD can be removed from that helicopter.

Ref. Publications:

Aerolite AG ASB 21-007 original issue dated 23 April 2021.

Aerolite AG SB-22-027 original issue dated 17 February 2023.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned documents is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.

Remarks:

1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.
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.
3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.



4. Information about any failures, malfunctions, defects or other occurrences, which may be similar to the unsafe condition addressed by this AD, and which may occur, or have occurred on a product, part or appliance not affected by this AD, can be reported to the [EU aviation safety reporting system](#). This may include reporting on the same or similar components, other than those covered by the design to which this AD applies, if the same unsafe condition can exist or may develop on an aircraft with those components installed. Such components may be installed under an FAA Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) or other modification.
5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Aerolite AG. E-mail: info@aerolite.ch.

