



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2016-0054

Issued: 14 March 2016

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) 216/2008 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 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, 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 agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EC) 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:

FINMECCANICA HELICOPTER DIVISION

Type/Model designation(s):

AB412 helicopters

Effective Date: 25 March 2016

TCDS Number: EASA.R.114

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 25 – Equipment / Furnishing – Comfort Clip Safety Belt – Removal

Manufacturer(s):

AgustaWestland S.p.A. (formerly Agusta S.p.A., Costruzioni Aeronautiche Giovanni Agusta)

Applicability:

AB412 and AB412EP helicopters, all serial numbers.

Reason:

As a result of a design review done by Finmeccanica Helicopter Division (FHD) it was identified that some passenger seat installations allow the installation of “seat belt comfort clips”.

These comfort clips could, in the event of an emergency landing, affect the functionality of the seat belt inertia reel, possibly resulting in injury to seat occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, FHD issued Bollettino Tecnico (BT) 412-415, providing instructions to remove seat belt comfort clips.

For the reasons stated above, this AD requires removal from service of seat belt comfort clips.



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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Note: For the purpose of this AD, a comfort clip is a device installed on a flight crew or passenger shoulder harness seat belt, which may be used by the wearer to increase his comfort by locking the seat belt position (such as, but not limited to, part number D7LZ-6560286-A).

- (1) Within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, inspect each crew and passenger shoulder harness seat belt in accordance with the instructions of FHD BT412-145, to identify if any comfort clip is installed.
- (2) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any comfort clip is found installed on any shoulder harness seat belt, before next flight, remove that clip in accordance with the instructions of FHD BT412-145, and inspect that shoulder harness seat belt for wear or other damage. Using the applicable instructions of the FHD AB412 Maintenance Manual (MM), chapter 25, is an acceptable method to inspect the shoulder harness seat belt.
- (3) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, any shoulder harness seat belt is found worn and/or damaged, before next flight, replace that shoulder harness seat belt. Using the applicable instructions of FHD AB412 MM, chapter 25, is an acceptable method to replace the shoulder harness seat belt.
- (4) Do not install on any helicopter comfort clips, as required by paragraph (4.1) or (4.2) of this AD, as applicable.
 - (4.1) For a helicopter that, on the effective date of this AD, has a comfort clip installed: After modification of that helicopter as required by paragraph (2) of this AD.
 - (4.2) For a helicopter that does not have any comfort clip installed: From the effective date of this AD.

Ref. Publications:

Finmeccanica Helicopter Division BT412-145 original issue, dated 08 March 2015.

The use of later approved revisions of this document 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. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Finmeccanica Helicopter Division, Customer Support & Services
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