



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2021-0066

Issued: 08 March 2021

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, 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 (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS DEUTSCHLAND GmbH

Type/Model designation(s):

EC135 and EC635 helicopters

Effective Date: 22 March 2021

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.009

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 25 – Equipment / Furnishings – Outboard Load System Fittings – Inspection / Re-identification

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD), formerly Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH, Eurocopter España S.A.

Applicability:

EC135 P2+, EC135 P3, EC135 T2+, EC135 T3, EC635 P2+, EC635 P3, EC635 T1, EC635 T2+ and EC635 T3 helicopters, serial numbers (s/n) 0886 to 1166 inclusive, except s/n 1007, 1102 and 1145, and except helicopters on which Airbus Helicopters (AH) Service Bulletin (SB) EC135-85-063 has been embodied in service.

Definitions:

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

The ASB: AH Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) EC135-85A-086.

Fitting: Aft and forward fitting assemblies of the outboard load system.

Affected parts: Fittings, as defined in this AD, having Part Number L851M2810103.



Reason:

Occurrences were reported of finding affected parts installed on certain helicopters. The affected parts are not approved for installation on helicopters having s/n 0886 and up, and operators of those helicopters may not be aware of the applicable overhaul/life limits.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead to failure of affected parts and consequent loss of the external cargo, possibly resulting in personal injury or injury to persons on the ground.

To address this potential unsafe condition, AH published the ASB, providing instructions to inspect and re-identify affected parts.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires a one-time inspection of each fitting to identify the affected parts, and re-identification and a one-time inspection of those affected parts.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspections:

- (1) Before next outboard load system operation after the effective date of this AD, inspect each fitting in accordance with the instructions of section 3.B.2 of the ASB.
- (2) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any affected part is found to be installed, before next outboard load system operation, or within 150 flight hours since last fitting inspection, whichever occurs later after the effective date of this AD, inspect each affected part in accordance with the instructions of section 3.B.3 of the ASB.

Parts Identification:

- (3) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, affected parts are found installed, before next flight, re-identify those affected parts in accordance with the instructions of section 3.B.2 of the ASB (see Note 1 of this AD).

Note 1: For re-identified affected parts, the applicable Aircraft Maintenance Manual and Eurocopter ASB EC135-85A-037 provide instructions for repetitive inspections.

Corrective Action(s):

- (4) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, any damage is found, before next flight, contact AHD for applicable instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.

Ref. Publications:

AH ASB EC135-85A-086 dated 17 December 2020.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned 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. This AD was posted on 04 February 2021 as PAD 21-014 for consultation until 04 March 2021. No comments were received during the consultation period.
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: Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH, Industriestrasse 4, 86609 Donauwörth, Federal Republic of Germany, Telephone: + 33 (0)4 42 85 97 97;
Web portal: <https://keycopter.airbushelicopters.com> > Technical Request Management
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