



## Airworthiness Directive

**AD No.:** 2020-0095

**Issued:** 29 April 2020

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

### Type/Model designation(s):

EC 120 B and EC 130 B4 helicopters

**Effective Date:** 13 May 2020

**TCDS Number(s):** EASA.R.508 and EASA.R.008

**Foreign AD:** Not applicable

**Supersedure:** This AD supersedes EASA AD 2015-0020 dated 11 February 2015.

## ATA 52 – Doors – Sliding Door Star Support – Modification

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### Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (AH), formerly Eurocopter (EC), Eurocopter France

### Applicability:

EC 120 B helicopters, serial number (s/n) of which is less than or equal to 1673, except s/n 1596; and

EC 130 B4 helicopters, all s/n, except those that have embodied EC modification (MOD) 07 3796 or MOD 07 2921 in production.

### Definitions:

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

**Affected part:** Sliding doors, having Part Number (P/N) C526A2370101 or P/N C526S1101051, as applicable to helicopter model.

**The applicable ASB:** AH Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) EC120-52A018 and ASB EC130-52A019, both at Revision 01, as applicable.



**Groups:** Group 1 helicopters are those that have an affected part installed. Group 2 helicopters are those that do not have an affected part installed.

**Reason:**

A case was reported where, after landing, the passengers of an AH EC 120 helicopter could not open the sliding door from inside. The passengers had to leave the helicopter through the other door. The results of the subsequent investigation revealed a sliding door star axle support failure.

This condition, if not corrected, could delay the evacuation from the helicopter in case of emergency, possibly resulting in injury to the occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, EC published ASB EC120-52A014 and ASB EC130-52A009 to provide modification instructions, and EASA issued AD 2013-0093 to require modification of the sliding door star support.

After that AD was issued, AH revised ASB EC120-52A014 to correct the Applicability to all s/n helicopters with an affected part installed, except those in a specific MOD configuration. Consequently, EASA issued AD 2015-0020, retaining the requirements EASA AD 2013-0093, which was superseded, and expanding the Applicability of EC 120 B helicopters.

Since that AD was issued, several incidents on the left-hand side doors (swing and sliding) revealed some weaknesses in the locking mechanism. Prompted by these occurrences, AH developed improved instructions for replacement of the rod ends and installation process of the reinforcements. To address these clarifications, AH issued ASB EC120-52A018 and ASB EC130-52A019 accordingly (both now at Revision 01), which also further expand the Applicability.

For the reasons described above, this AD retains the requirements of EASA AD 2015-0020, which is superseded, expands the Applicability and requires modification of the sliding door star support using improved instructions for rod ends replacement and installation of reinforcements.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

**Modification:**

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Within 24 months after the effective date of this AD, modify the door locking/unlocking mechanism in accordance with the instructions of the applicable ASB.

**Parts Installation:**

- (2) Do not install an affected part on any helicopter, as required by paragraph (2.1) or (2.2) of this AD, as applicable:
  - (2.1) For Group 1 helicopters: After modification of the helicopter as required by paragraph (1) of this AD.
  - (2.2) For Group 2 helicopters: From the effective date of this AD.



**Credit:**

- (3) Modification of a helicopter, accomplished before the effective date of this AD in accordance with the instructions of ASB EC120-52A018 or ASB EC130-52A019 at original issue is acceptable to comply with the requirement of paragraph (1) of this AD for that helicopter.

**Ref. Publications:**

EC ASB EC120-52A018 original issue dated 13 November 2015, or Revision 01 dated 12 July 2016.

AH ASB EC130-52A019 original issue dated 18 April 2016, or Revision 01 dated 12 July 2016.

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. This AD was posted on 27 March 2020 as PAD 20-055 for consultation until 24 April 2020. No comments were received during the consultation period.
3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Programming and Continued Airworthiness Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto: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](#).
5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Airbus Helicopters - Aéroport de Marseille Provence 13725 Marignane Cedex, France. Telephone +33 (0) 4 42 85 97 97, Fax +33 (0) 4 42 85 99 66.  
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Web portal: <https://keycopter.airbushelicopters.com> > Technical Requests Management.

