



## Airworthiness Directive

**AD No.:** 2023-0076

**Issued:** 11 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:

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS

### Type/Model designation(s):

SA 330 and AS 332 helicopters

**Effective Date:** 25 April 2023

**TCDS Number(s):** EASA.R.002

**Foreign AD:** Not applicable

**Supersedure:** This AD supersedes EASA AD 2023-0049 dated 07 March 2023.

## ATA 53 – Fuselage – Main Gearbox Suspension Bar Attachment Plates – Inspection / Measurement

### Manufacturer(s):

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

### Applicability:

SA 330 J, AS 332 C, AS 332 C1, AS 332 L and AS 332 L1 helicopters, all manufacturer serial numbers.

### Definitions:

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

**Affected part:** Attachment plates of the main gearbox (MGB) rear [left-hand (LH) and right-hand (RH) sides] and forward suspension bars.

**The ASB:** AH Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) SA330-53.56 or ASB AS332-53.02.15, as applicable.

### Reason:

An occurrence was reported of finding an MGB RH rear suspension bar attachment plate installed on a helicopter that was not eligible for installation. Subsequent investigation determined that attachment plates originally designed for AS 332 L2 and EC 225 LP helicopters (known as 'MK2 or MK2+ plates', respectively) may have inadvertently been installed on other helicopters, although no AH maintenance instruction allows operators to (re)install these parts in service. The investigation



also confirmed that the affected parts can be (re)installed only during D-level maintenance by AH staff.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could result in structural damage of the affected parts or the surrounding fuselage structure, possibly resulting in failure of load carrying structural elements.

To address this potential unsafe condition, AH issued ASB AS332-53.02.15 to provide inspection instructions for AS 332 helicopters. Consequently, EASA issued AD 2023-0049 to require a one-time inspection and measurement of the affected parts and, depending on findings, replacement.

Since that AD was issued, AH determined that MK2 or MK2+ plates may have been inadvertently installed also on some SA 330 J helicopters. Prompted by this development, AH issued ASB SA330-53.56 to make the inspection instructions of the affected parts available also for SA 330 J helicopters.

For the reasons described above, this AD retains the requirements of EASA AD 2023-0049, which is superseded, and expands the Applicability to SA 330 J helicopters.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

#### Inspection(s) and Measurement:

- (1) Within the compliance time defined in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, accomplish the actions as required by paragraphs (1.1) and (1.2) of this AD in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Table 1 – Inspection and Measurement

Helicopter Model	Compliance Time
SA 330 J	Within 50 flight hours (FH) after the effective date of this AD
AS 332 C, AS 332 C1, AS 332 L and AS 332 L1	Within 50 FH after 21 March 2023 [the effective date of EASA AD 2023-0049]

(1.1) Inspect the attachment plates of the MGB rear suspension bars (LH and RH sides).

(1.2) Measure the thickness of the attachment plate of the MGB front suspension bar.

#### Corrective Action(s):

- (2) If, during the inspection or measurement as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any discrepancy is detected, as defined in the instructions of the ASB, before next flight, contact AH for approved corrective action instructions and within the compliance time indicated therein, accomplish those instructions accordingly.

#### Ref. Publications:

AH ASB AS332-53.02.15 original issue dated 06 March 2023.

AH ASB SA330-53.56 original issue dated 03 April 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](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](#). 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 (Technical Support), Aéroport de Marseille Provence, 13725 Marignane Cedex, France, Telephone +33 (0)4 42 85 97 97, Fax +33 (0)4 42 85 99 66  
Web portal: <https://airbusworld.helicopters.airbus.com> or  
E-mail: [support.technical-airframe.ah@airbus.com](mailto:support.technical-airframe.ah@airbus.com).

