



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2018-0280

Issued: 17 December 2018

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:

LEONARDO S.p.A.

Type/Model designation(s):

A109 and A119 helicopters

Effective Date: 24 December 2018

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.005

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 67 – Rotors Flight Control – Mixing Control System Rigid Connecting Link – Inspection

Manufacturer(s):

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, formerly Finmeccanica S.p.A., AgustaWestland S.p.A., Agusta S.p.A.; and AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corporation, formerly Agusta Aerospace Corporation

Applicability:

A109A, A109All, A109C, A109E, A109K2, A109S, A109LUH and A119 helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n), and
AW109SP, and AW119MKII helicopters, all s/n.

Definitions:

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

The applicable SB: Leonardo Service Bulletin (SB) 109-154, SB 109EP-166, SB 109K-073, SB 109S-087, SB 109L-103, SB 109SP-128 and SB 119-097, as applicable.

Affected Part: Rigid connecting links, having Part Number (P/N) 109-0032-01-13 or P/N 109-0032-01-17, or P/N 109-0032-01-29.



Reason:

An occurrence was reported of damage to a rigid connecting link (rod), P/N 109-0032-01-13, on an A109E helicopter, and loosening of the nut on the upper rod end. Each helicopter is fitted with three rods, connecting the mixing control system to the main rotor servo-actuators. The technical investigation is on-going to determine the root cause of the occurrence. Follow-up analysis indicated that, due to similarity of design, some of those parts may be installed on other A109/A119 helicopter models.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to failure of an affected part, possibly resulting in reduced control of the helicopter.

Prompted by this occurrence, as a precautionary measure, Leonardo issued the applicable SB, providing applicable instructions.

For the reason described above, this AD requires a one-time inspection of the affected parts for damage, cracking or play and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

This AD is considered an interim action and further AD action may follow.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection:

- (1) Within the compliance time specified in Table 1 of this AD, accomplish a visual inspection of each affected part in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB.

Table 1 - Inspection

FH accumulated by an affected part	Compliance Time
Less than 2 400 FH	Within 10 FH or 30 days, whichever occurs first after exceeding 2 400 FH
2 400 FH or more	Within 10 FH or 30 days, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD

Corrective Action:

- (2) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any discrepancy is identified as defined in the applicable SB, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective actions in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB.

Reporting:

- (3) Within 14 days after the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, report the inspection results to Leonardo, including no findings. This can be accomplished using the 'SB compliance form' of the applicable SB.



Ref. Publications:

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters SB 109-154 original issue dated 17 December 2018.

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters SB 109EP-166 original issue dated 17 December 2018.

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters SB 109K-073 original issue dated 17 December 2018.

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters SB 109S-087 original issue dated 17 December 2018.

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters SB 109L-103 original issue dated 17 December 2018.

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters SB 109SP-128 original issue dated 17 December 2018.

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters SB 119-097 original issue dated 17 December 2018.

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](#).
5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, Customer Support & Services, Product Support Engineering DPT, E-mail: aw109.mbx.aw@leonardocompany.com.

