Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: **2019-0280**

Issued: **19 November 2019**

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):
AS 350 BB helicopters

Effective Date: 03 December 2019

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.008

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 62 – Main Rotor – Spherical Bearing – Inspection / Time Limit

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Manufacturer(s):
Airbus Helicopters (AH), Eurocopter, Eurocopter France.

Applicability:
AS 350 BB helicopters, all serial numbers.

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

Affected part: Spherical thrust bearings, having Manufacturer Part Number (MP/N) 579085 (AH P/N 704A33633156).

Serviceable part: An affected part that has not exceeded 6 400 flight hours (FH) since new (first installation on a helicopter), and with an elastomeric part in good condition, meeting the criteria provided in Section 3.B of the ASB.

The ASB: AH AS 350 Emergency Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 05.00.97.

ALF: After the last flight of the day (ALF) inspection.

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Reason:

The result of a recent investigation showed that the Airworthiness Limitation Section of the model AS 350 BB did not include the life limit for the affected part, as well as a repetitive inspection task.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead to extended in-service use and consequent failure of an affected part, possibly resulting in loss of control of the aircraft.

Prompted by this finding, AH defined a Service Life Limit (SLL) for the affected part when installed on the AS 350 BB and identified the mandatory inspections, and issued the ASB accordingly to provide those instructions.

For the reason described above, this AD requires the implementation of the SLL, repetitive inspections of the affected parts and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection(s):

(1) Within 25 FH after effective date of this AD, and, thereafter, during each ALF or at intervals not to exceed 10 FH, whichever occurs first, accomplish a general visual inspection of the spherical bearing elastomer in accordance with the instructions of Section 3.B of the ASB.

(2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, discrepancies are detected as defined in the ASB, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the instructions of Section 3.B of the ASB.

Replacement (SLL):

(3) Within the compliance time as specified in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, and, thereafter, before an affected part exceeds 6 400 FH, replace each affected part with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Table 1 – Initial Replacement of Affected Parts (see Note 1 of this AD)

FH Accumulated	Compliance Time
Less than 6 235 FH	Before exceeding 6 400 FH
6 235 FH or more, or FH unknown	Within 165 FH after effective date of this AD

Note 1: Unless indicated otherwise, the FH specified in Table 1 of this AD are those accumulated, on the effective date of this AD, by the spherical bearing since new (first installation on a helicopter).

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Terminating Action:
(4) None.

Parts Installation:
(5) From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install on any helicopter an affected part, provided it is a serviceable part, as defined in this AD.

Ref. Publications:
AH AS350 Emergency ASB 05.00.97 original issue dated 18 October 2019.

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. The results of the safety assessment have indicated the need for immediate publication and notification, without the full consultation process.

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.

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 (4) 42 85 97 97, Fax: +33 (4) 42 85 99 66,
E-mail: support.technical-airframe.ah@airbus.com ,
Web portal: https://keycopter.airbushelicopters.com > Technical Requests Management.

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