Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2019-0228

Issued: 12 September 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 and AS 355 helicopters

Effective Date: 26 September 2019

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.008, EASA.R.146

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: This AD supersedes DGAC France AD 2002-585 dated 27 November 2002.

ATA 25 – Equipment / Furnishings – Electric Hoist Installation – Modification

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Manufacturer(s):
Airbus Helicopters (AH), formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France, Aerospatiale

Applicability:

AS 350 B, AS 350 BA, AS 350 BB, AS 350 B1, AS 350 B2, AS 350 B3 and AS 350 D helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n); and

AS 355 E, AS 355 F, AS 355 F1, AS 355 F2 and AS 355 N helicopters, all s/n.

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

Affected part: Electric hoists (300 lb.) manufactured by BREEZE, TRW, LUCAS or AIR EQUIPEMENT, installed in combination with hoist box 26 M Part Number (P/N) 350A63-1136-00 (AS 350) or P/N 350A63-1136-01 (AS 355), except those for which the electrical provision (Honeywell control unit or the distribution panel "10 alpha", depending on the model) has been modified per AH (Eurocopter) modification (MOD) 073190.

The applicable ASB: AH AS 350 Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. 25.00.79 and AH AS355 ASB No. 25.00.71, either Revision 1 or 2.

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Reason:

A case of failure to operate the emergency release control system was identified by an operator of AS 350 rotorcraft. This dormant failure was due to an anomaly in the electrical control circuit. Due to design similarity, this could also affect AS 355 helicopters.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could prevent prompt operation of the cable cut in case of emergency, possibly resulting in loss control of the helicopter.

Prompted by this finding, AH published AS 350 ASB No. 25.00.79 and AS 355 ASB No. 25.00.71 to provide instructions for the necessary MOD 073190 to the affected parts of the electrical hoist system. Consequently, DGAC France issued AD 2002-585 to require accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

Since that AD was issued, AH identified two mistakes in the instructions contained in those ASBs, including an inconsistency between English and French versions. Prompted by this finding, AH issued Revision 1 of AS 350 ASB No.25.00.79 modifying the content of paragraph 2.B.2.c, dealing with the position of the time-delay fuses in the electrical scheme. At the same time AH issued Revision 1 of AS 355 ASB No. 25.00.71 to modify the quantity of fuses necessary to implement the retrofit in the material list at paragraph 3.C.1.

More recently, AH was informed that some helicopters fitted with electric hoist and hoist box 26 M P/N 350A63-1136-00 (AS 350), have an electrical provision wrongly modified by following the instructions of paragraph 2.B.2.c. of AS 350 ASB No. 25.00.79 at original issue. It cannot be excluded that other operators did not recognize the need to apply Revision 1 of the applicable ASB, as the wording of the ASB revision could be misleading.

Prompted by this finding, AH has revised the applicable ASB (Revision 2) to clarify that the embodiment of MOD 073190 is mandatory and that only the full and correct embodiment of this modification enables prompt operation of the hoist emergency jettison control.

As it has been determined that accomplishment of the original issue of AS 350 ASB No. 25.00.79 or AS 355 ASB No. 25.00.71, as applicable, does not constitute compliance with the (intended) requirements of DGAC France AD 2002-585, the unsafe condition as originally addressed by that AD may still exist as a dormant failure of the electrical cable cutter being inoperative. The unavailability of this emergency function would delay the cable release in case of need.

For the reasons described above, this AD retains the requirements of DGAC France AD 2002-585, which is superseded, and requires verification that the modification was properly done, or modification of the affected helicopters was done in accordance with the corrected instructions.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Identification / Inspection(s):

(1) Within 100 flight hours or 2 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, accomplish the modification of each affected part in accordance with the instructions of section 2.B of the applicable ASB, as per the criteria of Appendix 1 of this AD.

Reporting:

(2) Where Appendix 1 of this AD requires to "Fill the feedback form and send to AH", within 30 days after accomplishment of the modification as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, or within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, send the feedback form to AH.

Parts Installation:

(3) From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install an affected part on any helicopter, provided that, before next flight after installation, the affected part is modified in accordance with the instructions of section 2.B of the applicable ASB.

Ref. Publications:

AH AS 350 ASB No. 25.00.79 Revision 1 dated 21 May 2014, or Revision 2 dated 15 May 2019.

AH AS 355 ASB No. 25.00.71 Revision 1 dated 21 May 2014, or Revision 2 dated 15 May 2019.

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 08 August 2019 as PAD 19-153 for consultation until 05 September 2019. 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.

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, E-mail: support.technical-avionics.ah@airbus.com , Web portal: https://keycopter.airbushelicopters.com > Technical Requests Management.

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Appendix 1

ASB/Revision applied	English version applied	French version applied
AS 350 ASB No. 25.00.79 original issue Paragraph 2.B.2.c “Replacing the fuse”	Apply ASB Revision 2 to ensure that: - One *time-delay* fuse is installed at position “30 alpha” or “21 delta” (according to helicopter version) of the hoist emergency jettison circuit protection on the Honeywell control unit - One *quick-response* fuse is installed at position “31 alpha” of the hoist control circuit protection on the Honeywell control unit	Apply ASB Revision 2 to ensure that: - One *time-delay* fuse is installed at position “30 alpha” or “21 delta” (according to helicopter version) of the hoist emergency jettison circuit protection on the Honeywell control unit - One *quick-response* fuse is installed at position “31 alpha” of the hoist control circuit protection on the Honeywell control unit
AS 350 ASB No. 25.00.79 Revision 1 Paragraph 2.B.2.c “Replacing the fuse”	Fill the feedback form and send to AH	Fill the feedback form and send to AH
AS 355 ASB No. 25.00.71 original issue Paragraph 2.B.2.c “Replacing the fuses”	Confirm replacement of the two *quick-response* fuses of the emergency jettison circuit protection with two *time-delay* fuses on the distribution panel “10 alpha”	No action
AS 355 ASB No. 25.00.71 Revision 1 Paragraph 2.B.2.c “Replacing the fuses”	Fill the feedback form and send to AH	Fill the feedback form and send to AH

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