Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: **2017-0143**

Issued: **08 August 2017**

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) 216/2008 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 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 (EC) 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:
AIRBUS HELICOPTERS

Type/Model designation(s):
AS 350 helicopters

Effective Date: 22 August 2017

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.008

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 24 – Electrical Power – Direct Current (Optional) Second Battery – Replacement

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

Applicability:
AS 350 B, AS 350 B1, AS 350 B2, AS 350 B3, AS 350 BA, AS 350 BB and AS 350 D helicopters, if equipped with Very Cold Weather Starting Installation (second battery), except those that have embodied modification 074838 in production.

Reason:
During maintenance on an AS 350 B3 helicopter, a cracked terminal lug was reportedly found on an electrical cable belonging to the second battery. The investigation revealed that the routing of the electrical cable was incorrect, due to the orientation of the terminal lug itself. This resulted in a forced installation that subsequently lead to an initiation of a crack on the terminal lug. In case of a completely broken terminal lug, it can likely contact other metallic parts of the surrounding area.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to an unprotected short circuit with subsequent total loss of electrical power possibly resulting in loss of control of the helicopter.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus Helicopters (AH) issued AH Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. AS350-24.00.31 to provide instructions to replace the power cable of the battery.

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Prior to the AH ASB No. AS350-24.00.31, AH issued a Safety Information Notice No. 3114-S-24, dated 22 December 2016, to remind of the importance of a pre-flight check to verify the condition of attachment of the affected electrical harness.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires replacement of the electrical power cable of the second battery for the Very Cold Weather Starting Installation.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Note: AH ASB No. AS350-24.00.31 original issue is hereafter referred as “the ASB” in this AD.

Replacement:

(1) Within 660 flight hours or 12 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, remove the existing electrical battery cable from terminal “27P”, rework the upper resting point, install a new electrical cable and (re)install the second battery, in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.2.a or 3.B.2.b, depending on helicopter configuration, of the ASB.

Parts Installation:

(2) From the effective date of this AD, do not install on any helicopter, equipped with the Very Cold Weather Starting Installation, an electrical power cable having Part Number (P/N) 350A62401600AA, P/N 350A62018002AA, P/N 350A62103000, P/N 350A62103001AA, P/N 350A62103002AA or P/N 350AE108656700.

Ref. Publications:

AH ASB No. AS350-24.00.31 original issue, dated 22 May 2017.

The use of later approved revisions of this 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. This AD was posted on 22 May 2017 as PAD 17-066 for consultation until 27 June 2017. No comments were received during the consultation period.

3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.

4. 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
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