AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

For the reasons set out in the background section, the CASA delegate whose signature appears below issues the following Airworthiness Directive (AD) under subregulation 39.1 (1) of CAR 1998. The AD requires that the action set out in the requirement section (being action that the delegate considers necessary to correct the unsafe condition) be taken in relation to the aircraft or aeronautical product mentioned in the applicability section: (a) in the circumstances mentioned in the requirement section; and (b) in accordance with the instructions set out in the requirement section; and (c) at the time mentioned in the compliance section.

Eurocopter AS 350 (Ecureuil) Series Helicopters

AD/ECUREUIL/81 Main Gearbox Cowling Seals 1/2003

Applicability: Model AS 350 helicopters versions B, B1, B2, B3, BA, BB, and D, delivered before July 1 2002.

Requirement: Replace the neoprene seals on the main gearbox cowlings with glass/silicone seals in accordance with Eurocopter Alert Service Bulletin 53.00.31.

Note: DGAC AD 2002-537-094(A) refers.

Compliance: Unless previously accomplished, prior to 31 May 2003.

This Airworthiness Directive becomes effective on 23 January 2003.

Background: The neoprene seals currently installed on the main gearbox cowling do not meet certification criteria regarding fire resistance.

James Coyne
Delegate of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority

27 November 2002

The above AD is notified in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on 18 December 2002.