Emergency Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: **2019-0225-E**

Issued: **11 September 2019**

Note: This Emergency 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 EC 130 helicopters

Effective Date: 13 September 2019

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.008

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 63 – Main Rotor Drive – Main Gearbox Drive Shaft / Engine Coupling – Inspection

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Manufacturer(s):
Airbus Helicopters (AH)

Applicability:
AS 350 B3 helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n), if equipped with a SAFRAN Helicopter Engines (SAFRAN) ARRIEL 2D engine, having accumulated (on the effective date of this AD) less than 300 flight hours (FH) since first flight, and
EC 130 T2 helicopters, all s/n, having accumulated (on the effective date of this AD) less than 300 FH since first flight.

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

Affected part: Main gearbox (MGB) drive shafts, including relevant fittings at flexible couplings on both ends (MGB input side / Engine side) as identified in the applicable ASB.

The applicable ASB: AH AS 350 Emergency Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 63.00.32 and EC 130 ASB 63A019 (published as single document), as applicable.

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Reason:

An accident recently occurred with an AS 350 B3 helicopter, the root cause of which has not been identified and the technical investigation is still ongoing. As a precautionary measure, AH has issued the applicable ASB, providing instructions for a one-time visual inspection of the MGB drive shaft installation.

Due to similarity of design, EC 130 T2 helicopters are also affected. This measure applies only to recently delivered helicopters.

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

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

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection(s):

(1) Before next flight after the effective date of this AD, inspect the installation of the affected parts in accordance with the instructions of the applicable ASB.

Corrective Action(s):

(2) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, discrepancies are detected, as identified in the applicable ASB, before next flight, contact AH for approved corrective action instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.

Reporting:

(3) Within 7 days after accomplishment of the inspection as required at paragraph (1) of this AD, report the results (including no findings) to AH. This can be done using the instruction provided in the applicable ASB.

Ref. Publications:

AH AS350 ASB 63.00.32 and EC130 ASB 63A019 (published as single document) original issue dated 10 September2019.

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.

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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 Technical Support Department,
Fax: +33 (0)4.42.85.99.66, E-mail: support.technical-dyncomp.ah@airbus.com,
Website: https://keycopter.airbushelicopters.com

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