



## Airworthiness Directive

**AD No.:** 2017-0114

**Issued:** 28 June 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 and AS 355 helicopters

**Effective Date:** 12 July 2017

**TCDS Number(s):** EASA.R.008 and EASA.R.146

**Foreign AD:** Not Applicable

**Supersedure:** None

## ATA 55 – Stabilizers – Vertical Fin – Inspection

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### Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France)

### Applicability:

AS 355 E, AS 355 F, AS 355 F1, AS 355 F2, AS 355 N and AS 355 NP helicopters, all serial numbers, and AS 350 B3 helicopters, all serial numbers, except those that have embodied modification (MOD) 07.3148 in production, or AS350 Service Bulletin (SB) 55.00.14 (any revision) in service.

### Reason:

During an unscheduled post-flight inspection of the tail cone area of an AS 355 NP helicopter, a crack in the spar of the upper fin and the fracture of the two front attachment screws of the fin were found. The root cause of this event is still to be determined.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, may lead to in-flight separation of the upper part of the vertical fin, possibly resulting in loss of control of the helicopter.

Pre-MOD 07.3148 AS 350 B3 helicopters have a similar vertical fin configuration and are subject to comparable load levels, therefore the same unsafe condition may develop on those helicopters.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus Helicopters (AH) issued AS350 Emergency Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) ASB 05.00.90 and AS355 ASB 05.00.76 (published as a single document), to



provide inspection instructions for the upper fittings and the area of the fin spar, where crack initiation has been observed so far.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive visual inspections of the upper fin attachments screws and the fin spar, as well as repetitive cleaning and detailed inspections of the vertical fin attachments. This AD also provides an optional terminating action modification.

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

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Note 1: AH AS350 ASB 05.00.90 and AS355 ASB 05.00.76 (single document), original issue, dated 27 June 2017, is hereafter referred as “the ASB” in this AD

### Visual Inspection(s):

- (1) Within the compliance time as specified in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 55 flight hours (FH), accomplish a visual inspection of the upper fin attachments screws and the fin spar in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.2 of the ASB.

Table 1 – Initial Visual Inspection (see Note 2 of this AD)

FH Accumulated	Compliance Time
605 FH or less	Before exceeding 660 FH
More than 605 FH	Within 55 FH after the effective date of this AD

Note 2: Unless specified otherwise, the FH indicated in Tables 1 and 2 of this AD are those accumulated by the helicopter since first flight.

### Cleaning / Detailed Inspection(s):

- (2) Within the compliance time as specified in Table 2 of this AD, as applicable, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 660 FH, accomplish the cleaning and a detailed inspection of the vertical fin attachments in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.3 of the ASB.

Table 2 – Initial Cleaning and Detailed Inspection (see Note 2 of this AD)

FH Accumulated	Compliance Time
605 FH or less	Before exceeding 660 FH
More than 605 FH	Within 165 FH after the effective date of this AD

### Corrective Action(s):

- (3) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) or (2) of this AD, as applicable, discrepancies are detected, before next flight, contact AH for approved repair instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.



**Optional Modification:**

- (4) Modification of an AS 350 B3 helicopter in accordance with the instructions of Eurocopter AS350 SB 55.00.14 (MOD 07.3148) is an acceptable alternative method to comply with the requirements of this AD, provided that, prior to modification, the affected structure is determined to be crack-free.

**Terminating Action:**

- (5) Modification of an AS 350 B3 helicopter as specified in paragraph (4) of this AD constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by this AD for that helicopter.

**Ref. Publications:**

AH AS355 ASB 05.00.76, original issue, dated 27 June 2017.

AH AS350 ASB 05.00.90, original issue, dated 27 June 2017.

Eurocopter AS350 SB 55.00.14 original issue, dated 08 February 2007, or Revision 01, dated 17 June 2009.

The use of later approved revisions of these 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. Based on the required actions and the compliance time, EASA have decided to issue a Final AD with Request for Comments, postponing the public consultation process until after publication
3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu).
4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Airbus Helicopters Customer Support, Telephone +33 (0)4 42 85 97 89, Fax + 33 (0)4 42 85 99 66, E-mail: [Airframe.Technical-Support@airbus.com](mailto:Airframe.Technical-Support@airbus.com), Keycopter Technical Request Management: [TechnicalSupport.Helicopters@airbus.com](mailto:TechnicalSupport.Helicopters@airbus.com).

