



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2017-0199

Issued: 11 October 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:

Type/Model designation(s):

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS DEUTSCHLAND GmbH EC135 and EC635 helicopters

Effective Date: 25 October 2017

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.009

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 25 – Equipment & Furnishing – Outboard Load System – Inspection / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD), formerly Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH (ECD), Eurocopter España S.A.

Applicability:

EC135 P1, EC135 P2, EC135 P2+, EC135 P3, EC135 T1, EC135 T2, EC135 T2+, EC135 T3, EC635 P2+, EC635 P3, EC635 T1, EC635 T2+ and EC635 T3 helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n).

Reason:

An occurrence was reported where the hook separated from the hoist cable. Investigation determined that failure of the internal retaining ring of the hook, in combination with a permanent compression set of the elastomeric energy absorber, caused the separation.

This condition, if not corrected, may lead to detachment of an external load or person from the helicopter hoist, possibly resulting in personal injury, or injury to persons on the ground.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus Helicopters (AH) issued Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) EC135-85A-069 to provide inspection instructions.



For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive inspections of the hook assembly and, depending on findings, replacement of the elastomeric energy absorber. This AD also requires replacement of the retaining ring.

This AD is considered to be 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 ASB EC135-85A-069 is hereafter referred to as “the ASB” in this AD.

Note 2: For the purpose of this AD, an “affected hoist” has part number (P/N) 44301-10-2, P/N 44301-10-5, P/N 44301-10-6, P/N 44301-10-10, P/N 44301-10-11, P/N 44301-10-12, or P/N 44301-10-13. An “affected hook assembly” has P/N 44301-420 or P/N 44301-423 and is installed on an affected hoist.

Note 3: For the purpose of this AD, Group 1 helicopters have an affected hoist installed. Group 2 helicopters do not have affected hoist installed (see Note 2 of this AD).

Modification:

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Within 3 months after the effective date of this AD, and, thereafter, at intervals not exceeding 6 months, inspect each affected hook assembly and replace the retaining ring in accordance with the instruction of the ASB.

Corrective Action:

- (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any permanent compression, as identified in the ASB, is found on the elastomeric energy absorber, before next hoist operation, replace that elastomeric energy absorber in accordance with the instruction of the ASB.

Terminating Action:

- (3) None.

Part Installation:

- (4) For Group 1 and Group 2 helicopters: From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install an affected hoist on a helicopter, provided that the hook assembly is new (see Note 4 of this AD), or the retaining ring was replaced and the affected hook assembly passed an inspection in accordance with the instruction of the ASB within 6 months before the installation. Following installation, the affected hook assembly must be inspected as required by paragraph (1) of this AD.

Note 4: For the purpose of this AD, a hook assembly is “new” if it has accumulated 6 month or less since the date of manufacturing.

Ref. Publications:

AH ASB EC135-85A-069 original issue dated 02 August 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. 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.
4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH, Industriestrasse 4, 86609 Donauwörth, Federal Republic of Germany
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