



Airworthiness Directive Cancellation Notice

AD No.: 2012-0257-CN

Issued: 17 July 2024

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) Cancellation Notice (CN) 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.

Design Approval Holder's Name:

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS

Type/Model designation(s):

AS 350 and AS 355 helicopters

Effective Date: 17 July 2024

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.008, EASA.R.146

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Cancellation: This Notice cancels EASA Emergency AD 2012-0257-E dated 05 December 2012.

ATA 64 – CANCELLED: Tail Rotor – Laminated Half-Bearings – Inspection / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (AH), formerly Eurocopter

Applicability:

AS 350 B, AS 350 BA, AS 350 BB, AS 350 B1, AS 350 B2 and AS 350 D helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n).

AS 350 B3 helicopters, all s/n, except helicopters that embody modification (MOD) 075601.

AS 355 E, AS 355 F, AS 355 F1, AS 355 F2, AS 355 N and AS 355 NP helicopters, all s/n.

Note: MOD 075601 is an integral part of a specific AS 350 B3 model configuration, commercially identified as "AS350B3e" and is not fitted on AS 350 B3 model helicopters of other configurations.

Reason:

Premature failures of laminated half-bearings equipping tail rotor blades were detected on several AS 350 B3 helicopters post-MOD 075601. Three cases of vibrations originating from the tail rotor were also reported, detected in flight on affected helicopters, following which precautionary landings were performed. The cause of vibration was identified as failure of the laminated half-bearings.



This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to failure of the tail rotor in flight, possibly resulting in loss of control of the helicopter.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Eurocopter issued Safety Information Notice 2482-S-64 and AS350 Service Bulletin (SB) 05.00.71 and AS355 SB 05.00.63 to remind all operators of the particular attention that must be given during the visual check of the elastomeric part of the laminated half-bearings during the “after the last flight of the day” check. After publication of those documents, other occurrences involving an AS 350 B3 post-MOD 075601 helicopters were reported.

Additionally, it has been confirmed that due to the criticality of the laminated half-bearings, their inspections should be a preventive measure also for helicopter in pre-MOD 075601. Consequently, Eurocopter issued AS350 EASB 05.00.71 Revision 1 and AS355 EASB No. 05.00.63 Revision 1, providing instructions for repetitive post-flight inspections of the laminated half-bearings on AS 350 and AS 355 helicopters which do not embody MOD 075601, and EASA issued AD 2012-0257-E to require repetitive inspections of the tail rotor laminated half-bearings and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective actions.

Since EASA AD 2012-0257-E was issued, AH revised the Aircraft Maintenance Manual Chapter 04 – Airworthiness Limitations Section (ALS), as applicable to helicopter model, including the repetitive inspections addressed by that AD. Consequently, EASA issued AD 2024-0133 and AD 2024-0134 requiring accomplishment of the actions specified in the applicable ALS, and taking over the requirements of EASA AD 2012-0257-E, which, therefore, has become redundant.

For the reason described above, this Notice cancels EASA AD 2012-0257-E.

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

None.

Ref. Publications:

Eurocopter AS350 EASB No. 05.00.71 Revision 1 dated 26 November 2012.

Eurocopter AS355 EASB No. 05.00.63 Revision 1 dated 26 November 2012.

Remarks:

1. This AD-CN was posted on 17 June 2024 as PAD 24-070-CN for consultation until 01 July 2024. No comments were received during the consultation period.
2. Enquiries regarding this AD-CN should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate; E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
3. For any question concerning the technical content of this AD-CN, please contact:
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