EASA AD No.: 2015-0172

EASA

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

AD No.: 2015-0172

Date: 21 August 2015

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 on behalf of the European Community, 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 EU 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with 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 [EU 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [EC 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name: AGUSTAWESTLAND S.p.A.		Type/Model designation(s): AB139 and AW139 helicopters
TCDS Number :	EASA.R.006	
Foreign AD :	Not applicable	
Supersedure :	None	
ATA 32	Landing Gear – Emergency Flotation System Control Panel – Replacement	
Manufacturer(s):	AgustaWestland S.p.A (formerly Agusta S.p.A.), AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corporation (formerly Agusta Aerospace Corporation).	
Applicability:	AB139 and AW139 helicopters, all serial numbers, if equipped with Emergence Flotation System.	
Reason:	Two events of uncommanded emergency flotation system (EFS) deployment were experienced in flight. Subsequent technical investigation revealed that these conditions had been caused by improper design of the EFS control panels Part Number (P/N) 3G9560V00556 (for use with night vision goggle) and 3G9560V00557.	
	This condition, if not corrected, could lead to other events of uncommanded EFS deployment, possibly resulting in reduced control of the helicopter.	
	To address this potential unsafe condition, AgustaWestland designed new EF control panels and published Bollettino Tecnico (BT) 139-374, providing instructions to replace the affected P/N 3G9560V00556 and P/N 3G9560V00557 panels with the new EFS control panels.	
	For the reasons described above, this AD requires replacement of the EFS control panels P/N 3G9560V00556 and P/N 3G9560V00557, and prohibits the future installation.	
Effective Date:	04 September 2015	

EASA AD No.: 2015-0172

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Note 1: For the purpose of this AD, an affected EFS control panel is identified by P/N 3G9560V00556 or P/N 3G9560V00557.

Note 2: For the purpose of this AD, a serviceable part is an EFS control panel P/N 3G9560V00558 or P/N 3G9560V00559.

(1) Within 150 flight hours (FH) or 30 days, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, identify the EFS installed on the helicopter, and, within the compliance time specified in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, replace the affected EFS control panel (see Note 1 of this AD) with a serviceable part (see Note 2 of this AD) in accordance with the instructions of AgustaWestland BT 139-374.

A review of the helicopter maintenance records is acceptable to make the EFS identification, provided that the helicopter configuration can be conclusively determined from that review.

Table 1 - EFS Control Panel Replacement

Helicopter Configuration	Compliance Time (whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD)
EFS P/N 3G9560F00111 or P/N 3G9560F00113, with "pyrotechnical" inflation system P/N 3G9560V01051	150 FH or 3 months
EFS P/N 3G9560F00111 or P/N 3G9560F00113, with "SMA" inflation system P/N 3G9560V01052	1 200 FH or 12 months
EFS P/N 3G9560F00212 with "fuse disk" inflation system P/N 3G9560V02051	1 800 FH or 18 months

Prohibition to install certain EFS control panels

(2) After modification of a helicopter as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, do not install an affected EFS control panel (see Note 1) on that helicopter.

Ref. Publications:

AgustaWestland BT 139-374 original issue dated 06 July 2015.

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 Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate, EASA. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
- For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: AgustaWestland S.p.A.
 E-mail: aw139.mbx@agustawestland.com.