



## Airworthiness Directive

**AD No.:** 2018-0130

**Issued:** 18 June 2018

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 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:

LEONARDO S.p.A.

### Type/Model designation(s):

AB139 and AW139 helicopters

**Effective Date:** 25 June 2018

**TCDS Number(s):** EASA.R.006

**Foreign AD:** Not applicable

**Supersedure:** None

## ATA 62 – Main Rotor – Main Rotor Blades – Inspection

---

### Manufacturer(s):

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, formerly Finmeccanica S.p.A., AgustaWestland S.p.A., Agusta S.p.A.

### Applicability:

AB139 and AW139 helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n).

### Definitions:

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

**Affected part:** Main Rotor Blades (MRB), having Part Number (P/N) 3G6210A00131, with serial numbers as identified in section 1.A Effectivity of the ASB, except those that have accumulated 1 200 flight hours (FH) or more since first installation on a helicopter.

**The ASB:** Leonardo Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 139-520, original issue dated 26 April 2018.

**Serviceable part:** Affected part, if marked with the letter "R" (repaired tip cap) as final digit of the s/n, or a not affected part.

**Groups:** Group 1 helicopters are those that have an affected part installed. Group 2 helicopters are those that do not have an affected part installed.



**Reason:**

Following a reported occurrence of in-flight loss of the MRB tip cap on an AW139 helicopter, EASA issued Emergency AD 2017-0175-E to require replacement of a group of four MRBs, which were manufactured by using an incorrect bonding procedure of the tip cap. Further investigations have determined that another batch of MRBs, although to a less critical extent, may also have been subject to incorrect bonding procedure of the tip cap during manufacture.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to in-flight loss of MRB tip cap or to significant vibration, possibly resulting in increased pilot workload and reduced control of the helicopter.

Prompted by these findings, Leonardo issued the ASB, providing instructions for tapping inspections.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires to accomplish repetitive inspections of the affected parts and, depending on findings, replacement. This AD also prohibits installation of an affected part, unless the part is serviceable.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

**Inspection:**

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Within 50 FH after the effective date of this AD, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 50 FH, accomplish a hammer tapping inspection of each affected part in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.
- (2) If, during any tapping inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, an affected part is found with a disbonded area that is within the permitted limits specified in Annex A of the ASB, within 10 FH, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 10 FH, accomplish a hammer tapping inspection of that affected part in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

**Corrective Action(s):**

- (3) If, during any tapping inspection as required by paragraph (1) or (2) of this AD, as applicable, an affected part is found with a disbonded area that exceeds the permitted limits specified in Annex A of the ASB, before next flight, replace that affected part with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

**Terminating Action:**

- (4) Replacement of all affected parts with serviceable parts on a helicopter constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of this AD for that helicopter.
- (5) Accumulation of 1 200 FH by an affected part without findings of disbonded area, or with findings of disbonded area within the permitted limits specified in Annex A of the ASB, constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by this AD for that part.



**Parts Installation:**

- (6) For Group 1 and Group 2 helicopters: From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install on any helicopter an MRB P/N 3G6210A00131, provided the part is a serviceable part, as defined in this AD.

**Ref. Publications:**

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters ASB 139-520 original issue dated 26 April 2018.

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. 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. 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: Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters. E-mail: [cse.aw139.AW@leonardocompany.com](mailto:cse.aw139.AW@leonardocompany.com).

