



## Airworthiness Directive

**AD No.:** 2023-0088

**Issued:** 26 April 2023

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) 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.

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, or Annex Vb Part ML.A.301, as applicable, 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 Annex Vb Part ML.A.303, as applicable] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

### Design Approval Holder's Name:

AEROLITE AG

### Type/Model designation(s):

Installation of 3-Stretcher Unit Assembly

**Effective Date:** 10 May 2023

**STC Number(s):** EASA Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) 10017231, formerly STC EASA.R.S.01403

**Foreign AD:** Not applicable

**Revision:** This AD supersedes EASA AD 2021-0095 dated 31 March 2021.

## ATA 11 – Placards and Markings – Stretcher Unit / Placard – Installation

### Manufacturer(s):

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, formerly Finmeccanica S.p.A, AgustaWestland S.p.A., Agusta S.p.A.; and AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corporation, formerly Agusta Aerospace Corporation

### Applicability:

AB139 and AW139 helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n), if modified by EASA STC 10017231 Revision 1 or Revision 2, or STC EASA.R.S.01403 (installation of 3-stretcher Kit Part Number (P/N) 139084-501).

### Definitions:

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

**The ASB:** Aerolite AG Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 21-006.

**The modification SB :** Aerolite AG SB 21-017 Revision D.

**Affected stretcher:** Stretcher P/N CI-2010-321-00, s/n up to 1029 inclusive, except those modified in accordance with the instructions of the modification SB or Aerolite AG SB 22-027.



**Affected primary stretcher unit:** 3-stretcher unit assembly P/N 002095-501/502, s/n up to 39 inclusive, and s/n from 1000 to 1002 inclusive.

**Serviceable primary stretcher unit:** Any 3-stretcher unit assembly P/N 002095-501/502, that is not an affected primary stretcher unit, or an affected primary stretcher unit that was modified in accordance with the modification SB.

**Groups:** Group 1 are those helicopters that have installed an affected primary stretcher unit s/n up to 30 inclusive. Group 2 are those helicopters that have installed an affected primary stretcher unit s/n 31 to 39 inclusive and s/n from 1000 to 1002 inclusive.

**Reason:**

A design deficiency was identified, affecting the affected primary stretcher unit and the affected stretcher, of the 3-stretcher kit P/N 139084-501 installed by Aerolite AG STC on AB139 and AW139 helicopters.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead, in case of an emergency landing, to failure of the stretcher, possibly resulting in injury to helicopter occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Aerolite AG determined a weight limit of 61 kg for the affected primary stretcher unit occupant and designed a placard, P/N 080-0312690-001, with that limitation. Aerolite AG issued the ASB accordingly, providing instructions for placard installation.

Consequently, EASA published AD 2021-0095 requiring installation of a placard on the affected primary stretcher unit.

Since that AD was issued, Aerolite AG developed a modification improving the structural properties of the stretcher and the primary stretcher unit. Subsequently, Aerolite AG published the modification SB providing instructions for embodiment of the modification in service, and for the installation of a modification placard P/N 015390-001 intending to prevent the (re)installation of an affected stretcher.

For the reasons described above, this AD retains the requirements of EASA AD 2021-0095, which is superseded, amends its Applicability and requires the installation of a placard for Group 2 helicopters.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

**Placard Installation:**

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Within 30 flight hours (FH) after 14 April 2021 [the effective date of EASA AD 2021-0095], install a placard on the affected primary stretcher unit in accordance with the instructions of the ASB, inform all affected flight crew and medical crew members and, thereafter, ensure the placard remains installed and visible.



- (2) For Group 2 helicopters: Within 25 FH after the effective date of this AD, install a placard on the affected primary stretcher unit in accordance with the instructions of section 3 Part III of the modification SB.
- (3) For Group 1 helicopters: A helicopter modified in accordance with the instructions of the modification SB is not affected by the requirements of this AD, provided that the helicopter remains in that configuration. After modification of a post-ASB helicopter in accordance with the instructions of the modification SB, the placard installed in accordance with the requirement of paragraph (1) of this AD can be removed from that helicopter.

**Ref. Publications:**

Aerolite AG ASB 21-006 original issue dated 16 March 2021.

Aerolite AG SB-21-017 Revision D dated 11 April 2023.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned 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. 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](#). This may include reporting on the same or similar components, other than those covered by the design to which this AD applies, if the same unsafe condition can exist or may develop on an aircraft with those components installed. Such components may be installed under an FAA Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) or other modification.
5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Aerolite AG. E-mail: [info@aerolite.ch](mailto:info@aerolite.ch).

