

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

released by DIRECTION GENERALE DE L'AVIATION CIVILE

Inspection and/or modifications described below are mandatory. No person may operate a product to which this Airworthiness Directive applies except in accordance with the requirements of this Airworthiness Directive.

Translation of 'Consigne de Navigabilité' ref. : 1999-085-076(A) R3
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

EUROCOPTER

AS 350 helicopters

Tail rotor hub pitch change plate bearing (ATA 05, 65)

1. EFFECTIVITY:

AS 350 helicopters, versions: B, BA, B1, B2, B3, BB and D fitted with tail rotor hub pitch change plate, P/Nos. 350A33-2004-00/-01/-02/-03/-05 or 350A33-2009-00/-01, and which do not incorporate MOD 076551 [new generation bearing P/No. 6010F234M16 (704A33.651.190) introduced by EUROCOPTER AS 350 Service Bulletin No. 65.00.38 R1].

2. REASONS:

This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued subsequent to some cases of deterioration of the tail rotor hub pitch change plate bearing, which can lead to seizure of the bearing and loss of control of the aircraft.

Revisions 1 and 2 of this AD covered Revisions 1 and 2 of EUROCOPTER Service Bulletin No. 05.00.29.

Revision 3 of this AD covers the replacement of Service Bulletin No. 05.00.29 R2 with referenced Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. 05.00.29, with no change to the technical content.

3. MANDATORY ACTIONS AND COMPLIANCE TIME

3.1. Within 10 flying hours following the effective date of Revision 1 of this Airworthiness Directive, check the rotation torque of the bearing, in accordance with the instructions described in paragraph 2.B 1) of the referenced ASB, unless already carried out.

3.2. Check the bearing for axial play, friction points and brinelling in accordance with the instructions described in paragraph 2.B 2) of the referenced ASB:

3.2.1. Within 10 flying hours (without exceeding 2 weeks) following the effective date of Revision 1 of this Airworthiness Directive, except for bearings which underwent this check less than 40 flying hours ago or less than 6 months ago.

3.2.2. Every 50 flying hours (without exceeding 6 months between two checks).

3.3. Before installing a pitch change plate assembly or a tail rotor gear box assembly, held as spare, on an aircraft, check the rotation torque and carry out the axial play, friction point and brinelling check in accordance with the instructions described in paragraph 2.B 1) b) and 2.B 2) of the referenced ASB.

3.4. Interpretation of results:

3.4.1. If the measured rotational load is greater than or equal to 300 grams, remove the pitch change plate assembly from the aircraft, or do not install the pitch change plate assembly or tail rotor gear box assembly, held as spare, on the aircraft.

3.4.2. If the rotational load is less than 300 grams, and if the measured axial play is greater than or equal to 0.4 mm and/or friction points or brinelling detected:

- Check the condition of the parts (excluding the pitch change plate bearing) and replace them according to the criteria defined in paragraph 2.B 3) b) of the referenced ASB.
- Replace the pitch change plate bearing with a bearing in airworthy condition.

REF.: EUROCOPTER AS 350 Alert Service Bulletin No. 05.00.29.

This Revision 3 replaces AD 1999-085-076(A) R2 dated October 20, 1999.

EFFECTIVE DATES :

Original AD : MARCH 6, 1999
Revision 1 : On receipt of telegraphic AD
issued on MAY 14, 1999
Revision 2 : OCTOBER 30, 1999
Revision 3 : MARCH 02, 2002