

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. : 2002-472-057(A)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

EUROCOPTER

AS 365 N helicopters

Tail rotor head - Pitch change control rod (ATA 65)

1. EFFECTIVITY

AS 365 N3 helicopters equipped with tail rotor pitch change control rods P/N 365A33-6161-21 installed on a "quiet" fenestron (post MOD 0764B39 or in compliance with EUROCOPTER AS 365 Service Bulletin No. 64.00.21).

2. REASONS

This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued following tail rotor pitch change control rod failure which occurred on a prototype aircraft.

This AD incorporates the actions stipulated in AD 2001-443-054(A) which is cancelled, and introduces a new requirement concerning the withdrawal from service of the concerned rods.

3. MANDATORY ACTIONS AND COMPLIANCE TIME

3.1. Reminder of the actions rendered mandatory from the effective date of AD 2001-443-054(A):

3.1.1. The service life of tail rotor pitch change control rods, specified in paragraph 1 above, is limited to 300 flight hours.

3.1.2. The following transitory measures are applicable to above-specified tail rotor pitch change control rods in service, specified in paragraph 1 above, according to their aging as of the effective date of AD 2001-443-054(A):

3.1.2.1. Tail rotor pitch change control rods that have logged 700 flight hours or more are to be discarded before resuming flights.

3.1.2.2. Tail rotor pitch change control rods that have logged 500 flight hours or more are to be discarded not later than within the next 20 flight hours.

3.1.2.3. Tail rotor pitch change control rods that have logged more than 270 flight hours are to be discarded not later than within the next 30 flight hours.

- 3.2. At the latest, as from October 31, 2002 onwards, tail rotor pitch change control rods P/N 365A33-6161-21 installed on aircraft or held as spares are declared non-airworthy on tail gearboxes that are combined with a "quiet" fenestron post MOD 0764B39, in accordance with the instructions described in paragraph 2.B. of referenced EUROCOPTER AS 365 N Alert Service Bulletin No. 01.00.55.

REF.: EUROCOPTER AS 365 N Alert Telex No. 01.00.54
AS 365 N Alert Service Bulletin No. 01.00.55.

This AD replaces AD 2001-443-054(A) which is cancelled and the effective date of which was on receipt of the telegraphic AD issued on September 20, 2001.

EFFECTIVE DATE :

On receipt. from SEPTEMBER 18, 2002