



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2018-0090

Issued: 20 April 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 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, 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:

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS

Type/Model designation(s):

AS 332 and EC 225 helicopters

Effective Date: 04 May 2018

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.002

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: This AD supersedes EASA Emergency AD 2015-0239-E dated 18 December 2015.

ATA 32 – Landing Gear – Emergency Flotation Gear Upper Fitting Attaching Screws – Inspection / Replacement / Modification

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (AH), formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France, Aerospatiale.

Applicability:

AS 332 C, AS 332 C1, AS 332 L, AS 332 L1, AS 332 L2 and EC 225 LP helicopters, all manufacturer serial numbers, if equipped with emergency flotation gear, except those which embody AH modification (mod) 0728456.

Definitions:

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

The applicable inspection ASB: AH AS332 Emergency Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 05.01.06 or EC225 ASB 05A047, as applicable.

The applicable modification ASB: AH ASB AS332-25.03.43 or ASB EC225-25A207, as applicable.

Reason:

An occurrence was reported of rupture of a screw on the rear upper fitting on the Left Hand (LH) side emergency flotation gear on an AS 332 helicopter.



This condition, if not detected and corrected, could result, in case of ditching, in failure of the emergency flotation system and, consequently, unstable floating of the helicopter, possibly resulting in injury to the occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, AH issued the applicable inspection ASB to provide inspection instructions. Consequently, EASA issued Emergency AD 2015-0239-E to require repetitive inspections of the lower screws of the rear upper fitting on the rear LH and Right Hand (RH) side emergency flotation gears and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

Since that AD was issued, AH developed mod 0728456 to enable installation of concave/convex washers and longer screws on the rear upper fittings of the flotation gear in order to remove the stress applied to the screw heads. Instructions for installation of AH mod 0728456 are published in the applicable modification ASB.

For the reason described above, this AD retains the requirements of EASA AD 2015-0239-E, which is superseded, and requires installation of AH mod 0728456 as terminating action for the repetitive inspections.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection(s):

- (1) Within 15 flight hours (FH) after 22 December 2015 [the effective date of EASA Emergency AD 2015-0239-E] and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 15 FH, inspect the heads of the three (3) screws on the rear upper fitting of each emergency flotation gear, both LH and RH sides, in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.1 of the applicable inspection ASB.

Corrective Action(s):

- (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, at least one screw head moves or is found missing on one fitting, before the next flight when the emergency flotation system must be armed, replace the two lower screws and the upper screw on that fitting in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.2 of the applicable inspection ASB.

Modification:

- (3) Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, modify the helicopter by installing AH mod 0728456 in accordance with the instructions of the applicable modification ASB.

Terminating Action:

- (4) Replacement of screws on a helicopter, as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, does not constitute terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that helicopter.
- (5) Modification of a helicopter, as required by paragraph (3) of this AD, constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that helicopter.



Ref. Publications:

Airbus Helicopters AS 332 ASB 05.01.06 original issue dated 18 December 2015, or Revision 1 dated 04 April 2018.

Airbus Helicopters EC 225 ASB 05A047 original issue dated 18 December 2015, or Revision 1 dated 04 April 2018.

Airbus Helicopters ASB AS332-25.03.43 original issue dated 04 April 2018.

Airbus Helicopters ASB EC225-25A207 original issue dated 04 April 2018.

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.
4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Airbus Helicopters (EBSESB) – Aéroport de Marseille Provence, 13725 Marignane Cedex, France; Telephone +33 (4) 42 85 97 97; Fax +33 (4) 42 85 99 66; E-mail: Directive.technical-support@airbus.com.

