Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2018-0203

Issued: 12 September 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:
LEONARDO S.p.A.

Type/Model designation(s):
AW169 helicopters

Effective Date: 26 September 2018

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.509

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: This AD supersedes EASA AD 2017-0137 dated 01 August 2017.

ATA 67 – Rotors Flight Control – Pilot Collective Stick Assembly – Check

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Manufacturer(s):
Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, formerly Finmeccanica S.p.A., AgustaWestland S.p.A.

Applicability:
AW169 helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n), equipped with Pilot Collective Stick Assemblies having Part Number (P/N) 6F6711A07832 or P/N 6F6711A07831.

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

The SB: Leonardo Service Bulletin (SB) 169-082.

Affected part: Pilot Collective Stick Assemblies, P/N 6F6711A07832 and P/N 6F6711A07831.

Reason:
In 2017, an occurrence of in-flight collective stick oscillation was reported. Based on the investigation results, it was determined that this was most likely due to an incorrect adjustment on the collective stick fixed friction during helicopter assembly, or during a maintenance action.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to a reduction of the controllability of the helicopter possibly resulting in damage to the helicopter and injury to occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Leonardo issued SB 169-057, providing appropriate instructions, and EASA issued AD 2017-0137, to require a one-time check of the collective stick fixed friction value.

Since that AD was issued, another similar event was reported on a helicopter s/n which was not affected by EASA AD 2017-0137. Prompted by this new event, Leonardo issued the SB to provide instructions to check the collective stick fixed friction.

For the reason described above, this AD supersedes EASA AD 2017-0137, and requires a one-time check of the friction of the pilot collective stick assembly, to verify that it is within the allowable range and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Check:

(1) Within 80 flight hours, or during the next scheduled inspection in accordance with Air-Vehicle Maintenance Planning Information (AMPI) Chapter V, Task 67-14, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, check the collective fixed friction in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Corrective Action(s):

(2) If, during the check as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, the friction is outside the allowable range as specified in the SB, before next flight, restore the acceptable level of friction in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Part Installation:

(3) After installation of an affected part or following maintenance of an affected part that involves removal from the helicopter and (re)installation, before next flight after installation, check the collective fixed friction and, depending on findings, accomplish corrective action(s), in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Ref. Publications:

Leonardo S.p.A. SB 169-057 original issue, dated 26 July 2017.

Leonardo S.p.A. SB 169-082 Revision A, dated 03 August 2018.

Leonardo S.p.A. AW169-AMPI Issue 17, dated 01 August 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. This AD was posted on 10 August 2018 as PAD 18-115 for consultation until 07 September 2018. No comments were received during the consultation period.

3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: 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, Customer Support & Services, Product Support Engineering & Licenses DPT, Via Giovanni Agusta 520, 21017 Cascina Costa di Samarate (VA) – Italy, Telephone: +39 0331 255036, Fax: +39 0331 225988,
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