

Continued Airworthiness Notification to the International Community

To: Civil Aviation Authorities

Date: February 11, 2020

From: Federal Aviation Administration
Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service, AIR-700
10101 Hillwood Parkway
Fort Worth, TX 76177

Subject: This message is to advise you of FAA's ongoing activities related to Apical Industries, Inc., d/b/a DART Aerospace emergency float systems (EFS).

Accident/ Incident Description: On March 11, 2018, Liberty Helicopters Inc., Airbus Helicopters Model AS350B2, N350LH, resulted in a fatal accident after experiencing inadvertent activation of the fuel shutoff lever and subsequent ditching into a body of water. Results from an investigation found that the left-hand and right-hand emergency floats did not inflate symmetrically and the helicopter subsequently capsized. During the accident investigation, the FAA learned of reports of difficulty pulling the emergency float kit float activation handle installed on the pilot cyclic.

Aircraft/ Engine Make, Model and Series: Airbus Helicopters Model AS350B, AS350BA, AS350B1, AS350B2, AS350B3, AS350C, AS350D, and AS350D1 helicopters modified by Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) SR00470LA, and Model AS355E, AS355F, AS355F1, AS355F2, AS355N, and AS355NP helicopters modified by STC SR00645LA.

U.S.-registered fleet: 71; **Worldwide fleet:** 134

Operators: No major operators; **General Utilization:** Offshore Operations, General Aviation, and Helicopter Tours.

Ongoing activities: The FAA is issuing an Immediately Adopted Rule airworthiness directive to require repetitive inspections and corrective action as necessary.

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