



Notification of a Proposal to cancel an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 20-008-CN

Issued: 28 January 2022

Note: This Proposed Airworthiness Directive (PAD) Cancellation Notice (CN) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 129 of that Regulation.

In accordance with the EASA Continuing Airworthiness Procedures, the Executive Director is proposing the cancellation of an EASA Airworthiness Directive (AD), applicable to the aeronautical product(s) identified below. All interested persons may send their comments, referencing the PAD Number above, to the e-mail address specified in the 'Remarks' section, prior to the consultation date indicated.

Design Approval Holder's Name:

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS

Type/Model designation(s):

AS 350 and AS 355 helicopters

Effective Date: [TBD - standard: the same day as AD-CN issue date]

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.008 and EASA.R.146

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Cancellation: This Notice proposes to cancel EASA AD 2011-0072 dated 20 April 2011.

ATA 25 – CANCELLED: Equipment & Furnishings – Emergency Flotation Gear Attachment Brackets – Inspection / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (AH), formerly Eurocopter, Aerospatiale

Applicability:

AS 350 B, AS 350 BA, AS 350 BB, AS 350 B1, AS 350 B2, AS 350 B3 and AS 350 D helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n), and

AS 355 E, AS 355 F, AS 355 F1, AS 355 F2, AS 355 N and AS 355 NP helicopters, all s/n,

if equipped with fixed parts of the emergency flotation gear.

Definitions:

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

The ASB: Eurocopter AS 350 Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 05.00.63 Revision 1 and AS 355 ASB 05.00.58 Revision 1, as applicable.



Reason:

Several reports were received of finding cracks on the attachment brackets of the emergency flotation gear, which appeared to be due to stress corrosion.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could, in case of emergency landing on water, lead to rupture of the emergency flotation gear attachment brackets, no longer ensuring the float stability of the helicopter, possibly resulting in damage to the helicopter and injury to the occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Eurocopter published the ASB, as defined in this AD, and consequently, EASA issued AD 2011-0072 to require repetitive inspections of the emergency flotation gear attachment brackets and, depending on findings, replacement.

Since EASA AD 2011-0072 was issued, the repetitive inspections required by that AD have been included as regular tasks into the maintenance schedule of the helicopter. Additionally, the results of new analyses and risk re-assessment confirmed that no unsafe condition is likely to exist or develop on AS 350 or AS 355 helicopters emergency flotation gear attachment brackets that would warrant an AD action, which means that EASA AD 2011-0072 is no longer necessary.

Consequently, this Notice proposes to cancel EASA AD 2011-0072.

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

None.

Ref. Publications:

EUROCOPTER AS 350 ASB 05.00.63 Revision 1 dated 18 April 2011.

EUROCOPTER AS 355 ASB 05.00.58 Revision 1 dated 18 April 2011.

Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD-CN will be closed for consultation on 25 February 2022.
2. Enquiries regarding this PAD-CN should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
3. For any question concerning the technical content of this PAD-CN, please contact Airbus Helicopters Customer Support, Telephone +33 (0)4.42.85.97.89, Fax + 33 (0)4.42.85.99.66, E-mail: Airframe.Technical-Support@airbus.com, Keycopter Technical Request Management: TechnicalSupport.Helicopters@airbus.com.

