



## Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

**PAD No.:** 22-025

**Issued:** 14 March 2022

Note: This Proposed Airworthiness Directive (PAD) 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 issuance 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 DEUTSCHLAND GmbH

### Type/Model designation(s):

EC135 and EC635 helicopters

**Effective Date:** [TBD - standard: 14 days after AD issue date]

**TCDS Number(s):** EASA.R.009

**Foreign AD:** Not applicable

**Supersedure:** This AD supersedes EASA AD 2017-0243 dated 06 December 2017, EASA AD 2018-0168R1 dated 18 December 2020 and EASA AD 2018-0284 dated 20 December 2018.

## ATA 04 – Time Limits / Maintenance Checks – Airworthiness Limitations Section – Amendment

### Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD), formerly Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH, Eurocopter España S.A.

### Applicability:

EC135 P1, EC135 P2, EC135 P2+, EC135 P3, EC135 T1, EC135 T2, EC135 T2+, EC135 T3, EC635 P2+, EC635 P3, EC635 T1, EC635 T2+ and EC635 T3 helicopters, all variants, all serial numbers.

### Definitions:

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

**The ALS:** Airbus Helicopters (AH) "EC135 P1, P2, P3, T1, T2, T3, limited to CDS, CPDS, P2+, T2+ Chapter 04, Airworthiness Limitations Section (ALS)" and "EC135 P3H, T3H Chapter 04, Airworthiness Limitations Section (ALS)", both at Revision 002 dated 06 April 2021 status, as applicable.



**The AMP:** The approved Aircraft Maintenance Programme (AMP) on the basis of which the operator or the owner ensures the continuing airworthiness of each operated helicopter. For helicopters operated under EU regulation, compliance with the approved AMP is required by Commission Regulation (EU) [1321/2014](#), Part M.A.301, paragraph (c).

**New and/or more restrictive tasks:** This includes all tasks that are new or for which a threshold or interval was reduced, which were introduced into the ALS (as defined in this AD) since the previous ALS revision that is currently incorporated in the AMP.

**Reason:**

The airworthiness limitations and/or certification maintenance instructions for AHD EC135 and EC635 helicopters, which are approved by EASA, are currently defined and published in the AH EC135 Chapter 04, Airworthiness Limitations Section. These instructions have been identified as mandatory for continued airworthiness.

Failure to accomplish these instructions could result in an unsafe condition.

Previously, EASA issued AD 2017-0243 to require accomplishment of the maintenance tasks as described in the applicable Master Servicing Manuals (MSM) Chapter 04 Revision 23 (at that time, listing the airworthiness limitations and/or certification maintenance instructions).

EASA also issued AD 2018-0168, later revised, introducing a life limit for tail rotor blades having part number L642A2002111, and AD 2018-0284, requiring a one-time inspection for certain main rotor actuators (MRA).

Since those ADs were issued, it was determined that repetitive inspections of MRA are necessary.

Consequently, AH published the ALS, as defined in this AD, taking over the applicable maintenance tasks and limitations from the previous MSM Chapter 04, and incorporating also new and/or more restrictive tasks and limitations.

For the reasons described above, this AD supersedes EASA AD 2018-0168R1 and AD 2018-0284, retains the requirements of EASA AD 2017-0243, which is superseded, and requires accomplishment of the actions specified in the ALS.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

**Maintenance Tasks and Replacement of Life Limited Parts:**

- (1) From the effective date of this AD, accomplish the following actions, as specified in the ALS, as applicable to helicopter model and depending on helicopter configuration:
  - (1.1) Replace each component before exceeding the applicable life limit, and
  - (1.2) Within the thresholds and intervals, accomplish all applicable maintenance tasks.



**Corrective Action(s):**

- (2) In case of finding discrepancies during accomplishment of any task as required by paragraph (1.2) of this AD, within the compliance time specified in the ALS, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the applicable AH maintenance documentation. If no compliance time is identified in the ALS, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) before next flight. If a detected discrepancy is not identified in the applicable Aircraft Maintenance Manual maintenance task, before next flight, contact AHD for approved instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.

**AMP Revision:**

- (3) Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, revise the approved AMP by incorporating the limitations, tasks and associated thresholds and intervals described in the ALS, as applicable to helicopter model and depending on helicopter configuration.

**Credit:**

- (4) If, before the effective date of this AD, the AMP has been revised to incorporate the maintenance tasks and limitations as specified in a previous revision of the ALS, that action ensures the continued accomplishment of those tasks and limitations.

Consequently, for a helicopter to which that AMP applies, it is acceptable to accomplish the new and/or more restrictive tasks and limitations, as defined in this AD, as applicable to helicopter model and depending on helicopter configuration, within the compliance times as specified in the ALS to comply with paragraph (1) of this AD.

For that AMP, it is acceptable to incorporate the new and/or more restrictive tasks and limitations, as applicable to helicopter model and depending on helicopter configuration, into the AMP to comply with paragraph (3) of this AD.

**Recording AD Compliance:**

- (5) When the AMP of a helicopter has been revised as required by paragraph (3) or (4) of this AD, as applicable, that action ensures continued accomplishment of the tasks as required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of this AD for that helicopter. Consequently, after revising the AMP, as required by paragraph (3) or (4) of this AD, as applicable, it is not necessary that accomplishment of individual action is recorded for demonstration of AD compliance on a continued basis.

**Ref. Publications:**

AH "EC135 P1, P2, P3, T1, T2, T3, limited to CDS, CPDS, P2+, T2+, Chapter 04, Airworthiness Limitations Section", Revision 002 dated 06 April 2021.

AH "EC135 P3H, T3H Chapter 04, Airworthiness Limitations Section", Revision 002 dated 06 April 2021.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned documents is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.



**Remarks:**

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 11 April 2022.
2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu).
3. Information about any failures, malfunctions, defects or other occurrences, which may be similar to the unsafe condition addressed by this PAD, and which may occur, or have occurred on a product, part or appliance not affected by this PAD, can be reported to the [EU aviation safety reporting system](#). This may include reporting on the same or similar components, other than those covered by the design to which this PAD applies, if the same unsafe condition can exist or may develop on an aircraft with those components installed. Such components may be installed under an FAA Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) or other modification.
4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this PAD, please contact: Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH, Industriestrasse 4, 86609 Donauwörth, Federal Republic of Germany, Telephone: + 33 (0)4 42 85 97 97;  
Web portal: <https://airbusworld.helicopters.airbus.com>;  
E-mail: [customersupport.helicopters@airbus.com](mailto:customersupport.helicopters@airbus.com).

