

Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 22-164

Issued: 02 December 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

Type/Model designation(s):

SA 341 G and SA 342 J helicopters

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.125

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 67 – Rotors Flight Control – Pilot Collective Pitch Stick Handle Grip – Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Eurocopter, Eurocopter France, Aerospatiale, Sud Aviation

Applicability:

SA 341 G and SA 342 J (Gazelle) helicopters, all serial numbers (s/n), if equipped with a pilot collective pitch stick having Part Number (P/N) 341A27-5041-0057, P/N 341A27-5041-0058, P/N 341A27-5041-0060, P/N 341A27-5041-0063, P/N 341A27-5041-0064, P/N 341A27-5041-0066, P/N 341A27-5041-0067 or P/N 341A27-5041-0068.

Definitions:

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

Affected part: Handle grips, having P/N 341A27-1377-00, installed on pilot collective pitch sticks before 15 June 2022.

Serviceable part: Handle grips, having P/N 341A27-1377-00, or pilot collective pitch sticks (complete with handle grip), having P/N 341A27-5041-0057, P/N 341A27-5041-0058,

P/N 341A27-5041-0060, P/N 341A27-5041-0063, P/N 341A27-5041-0064, P/N 341A27-5041-0066, P/N 341A27-5041-0067 or P/N 341A27-5041-0068, delivered by AH on or after 15 June 2022.

The ASB: Airbus Helicopters (AH) Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) SA341 67.06 and ASB SA342 67.06 (published as a single document, also ref. No. ASB GAZ-67.06).

Reason:

An occurrence was reported where, during maintenance of a Gazelle helicopter, when a mechanical technician pulled the handle grip of the pilot collective pitch stick, the handle broke into two parts. Following investigation and analysis, a sensitivity to aging of the material (Rilsan) of the handle grip was determined, with consequent degradation of the structural strength of the handle grip.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead to failure/fracture of the handle grip, with consequent reduced integrity of the flight control system, possibly resulting in loss of control of the helicopter.

To address this potential unsafe condition, AH published the ASB, providing instructions to replace the affected parts.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires replacement of all affected parts with serviceable parts, as defined in this AD.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Replacement:

- (1) Within 3 months after the effective date of this AD, replace each affected part, as defined in this AD, or replace the (complete) pilot collective pitch stick, with a serviceable part, as defined in this AD, in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Parts Installation:

- (2) From the effective date of this AD, do not install on any helicopter an affected part, or a pilot collective pitch stick equipped with an affected part.

Ref. Publications:

AH ASB SA341 67.06 and ASB SA342 67.06 (published as a single document, also ref. ASB No. GAZ-67.06) original issue dated 15 June 2022.

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

Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 30 December 2022.
2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: 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 (Technical Support) at:
Web portal: <https://airbusworld.helicopters.airbus.com/> Technical Requests Management, or
E-mail: TechnicalSupport.Helicopters@airbus.com, or Telephone +33 (0)4.42.85.97.89.

