



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2023-0002

Issued: 05 January 2023

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) 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.

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, or Annex Vb Part ML.A.301, as applicable, 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 Annex Vb Part ML.A.303, as applicable] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS

Type/Model designation(s):

SA 341 G and SA 342 J helicopters

Effective Date: 19 January 2023

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, 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 Airbus Helicopters (AH) on or after 15 June 2022.



The ASB: 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, or replace the (complete) pilot collective pitch stick, with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Part(s) 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. No. ASB 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. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.
2. This AD was posted on 02 December 2022 as PAD 22-164 for consultation until 30 December 2022. 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](#). This may include reporting on the same or similar components, other than those covered by the design to which this AD 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.

5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, 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.

