European Union Aviation Safety Agency

Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2025-0025

Issued: 23 January 2025

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):

AS 350, AS 355 and EC 130 B4 helicopters

Effective Date:	06 February 2025
TCDS Number(s):	EASA.R.008 and EASA.R.146
Foreign AD:	Not applicable
Supersedure:	None

ATA 25 – Equipment / Furnishings – Emergency Release Control of Cargo-Swing Installation – Inspection

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Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (AH), formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France, Aerospatiale

Applicability:

AS 350 B2, AS 350 B3, AS 355 NP, AS 355 N and EC 130 B4 helicopters, all serial numbers equipped with ONBOARD systems 3500LB, having Part Number (P/N) 704A41811035 (manufacturer reference 528-023-51).

Definitions:

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

Affected part: ONBOARD systems 3500LB, having Part Number (P/N) 704A41811035 (manufacturer reference 528-023-51), equipped with dropping control, having P/N 704A41811037 (manufacturer reference 26802400).

The ASB: AH Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) ASB AS350-25-98-0002, ASB AS355-25-98-0001, or ASB EC130-25-98-0001, as applicable.

Sling cycles: Counting/Cycles as defined in the AH AS 350, AH AS 355, or AH EC 130 Master Servicing Manual (MSM).

Reason:

An occurrence was reported of a loss of load during cargo swing operation on a helicopter. The results of the subsequent investigation revealed that the adjustment of the release cable had been incorrectly accomplished.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to additional loss of the load and consequent injury to persons on ground.

To address this potential unsafe condition, AH published the ASB to provide instructions for inspection, and, depending on findings, adjustment of the cargo swing emergency release control of the ONBOARD systems 3500LB, or replacement of the dropping control.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires a one-time inspection of the affected part and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

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

Required as indicated by this AD, unless the actions required by this AD have been already accomplished:

Inspection:

(1) Within 30 days or 100 sling cycles, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, inspect the affected part in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Corrective Action(s):

(2) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, it is determined that the distance 'B', as identified in the ASB, is out of tolerance, and the distance 'C', as identified in the ASB, is within tolerances, before next flight, adjust the cargo swing emergency release control in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

(3) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, it is determined that the distances 'B' and 'C' are out of tolerances, before next flight, replace the dropping control in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Ref. Publications:

AH ASB AS350-25-98-0002 original issue dated 15 January 2025.

AH ASB AS355-25-98-0001 original issue dated 15 January 2025.

AH ASB EC130-25-98-0001 original issue dated 15 January 2025.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned documents 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. Based on the required actions and the compliance time, EASA have decided to issue a Final AD with Request for Comments, postponing the public consultation process until after publication. All interested persons may send their comments, referencing the AD Number, to the E-mail address specified in below Remark 3, prior to 20 February 2025. Only if any comment is received during the consultation period, a Comment Response Document will be published in the EASA Safety Publications Tool, in a compressed ('zipped') file, attached to the record for this AD.

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 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, Technical Request Management: TechnicalSupport.Helicopters@airbus.com.