

servicing loans and grants made by the water or waste disposal systems, or other eligible entity, to individuals. The entity is responsible for:

- (1) Understanding all provisions of the loan and grant documents; and
- (2) Servicing loans and grants in the manner outlined in the executed loan and grant documents.

(c) *Scoring.* For applications submitted by water or waste disposal systems or other eligible entities to benefit individuals, the criteria in paragraphs (c)(1) through (9) of this section will be used to rank applications and in selecting projects for funding.

(1) *Lending experience.* Degree of expertise and successful experience in making and servicing loans to individuals. Up to 15 points.

(2) *Operational experience.* Degree of expertise and experience in operating and maintaining water or waste disposal system. Up to 15 points.

(3) *Work plan.* Extent to which the work plan demonstrates a well thought out, comprehensive approach to accomplishing the objectives of this part, clearly defines who will be served by the project, and appears likely to be sustainable. Up to 15 points.

(4) *Population.* The system after the proposed project will primarily serve a rural area having a population:

- (i) Not in excess of 1,000—25 points.
- (ii) Between 1,001 and 2,500—15 points.
- (iii) Between 2,501 and 5,500—5 points.

(5) *Income.* The median household income of population to be served by the proposed project is:

- (i) Not in excess of 50 percent of the SNMHI—30 points.
- (ii) More than 50 percent and not in excess of 60 percent of the SNMHI income—20 points.
- (iii) More than 60 percent and not in excess of 70 percent of the SNMHI—15 points.

(6) *Joint financing.* The amount of funds, other than RUS funds, committed to the proposed project is:

- (i) Fifty percent or more—15 points.
- (ii) Twenty to forty-nine percent—10 points.
- (iii) Five to nineteen percent—5 points.

(7) *Colonia.* (See definition in § 1777.4.) The proposed project will provide water or waste disposal services to the residents of a recognized Colonia—25 points.

(8) *Access and health risks.* (i) A service area that lacks access to both water and waste disposal facilities, resulting in a significant health risk—50 points.

(ii) A service area that lacks access to either water or waste disposal facilities,

resulting in a significant health risk—40 points.

(iii) A service area that has access to water and waste disposal facilities but has a significant health risk—20 points.

(9) *Discretionary.* (i) State Director or designee with loan and grant approval authority in certain cases, and when a written justification is prepared, may assign up to 15 points for administrative and programmatic priorities for items including, but not limited to, natural disasters, funding or priority coordination between RUS and other agencies, including leveraged funding, for award to applicants under this program, to assist those projects that are the most cost effective, or to projects located in areas experiencing high unemployment and poverty rates and severe health risks.

(ii) RUS Administrator may assign up to 15 additional points that will be considered in the total points for items including, but not limited to, the geographic distribution of funds nationally and within the state, and the severity of health risks. Any funds transferred to RHS for individual assistance will be administered following the provisions established in their governing statutes, regulations or policy. However, funds cannot be used to make improvements to the residence, except for the improvements authorized by § 1777.32. Funds cannot be used to pay individuals for their own labor. RUS transferred funds to RHS that remain after providing individual loans and grants will be returned to RUS or its successors.

§ 1777.34 Individual loans—Rates and terms.

Individual loans will bear interest at not more than the maximum of 5 percent per annum, or the Federal Financing Bank or other Agency designated source, on loans of a similar term at the time such loans are made. The term will not exceed the estimated useful life of the eligible improvements financed or as determined by tribal or state law or statute, whichever is less.

§§ 1777.35 through 1777.41 [Reserved]

§ 1777.42 Delegation of authority.

The Administrator may delegate approval authority under this section, to the Assistant Administrator, WEP in accordance with 7 CFR 1780.

§ 1777.43 Exception authority.

The Administrator may, in individual cases, make an exception to any requirement or provision of this part which is not inconsistent with the authorizing statute or other applicable

law and is determined to be in the Government's interest.

§ 1777.44 Availability of forms and regulations.

Information on forms and regulations are available online from the Agency website.

§§ 1777.45 through 1777.99 [Reserved]

§ 1777.100 OMB control number.

The reporting and recordkeeping requirements contained in this part have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned OMB control number 0572-0121.

Andrew Berke,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2023-01126 Filed 1-31-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2022-1295; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-01181-T; Amendment 39-22295; AD 2023-01-01]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus SAS Model A318 series airplanes; Model A319-111, -112, -113, -114, -115, -131, -132, and -133 airplanes; Model A320-211, -212, -214, -216, -231, -232, and -233 airplanes; and Model A321-111, -112, -131, -211, -212, -213, -231, and -232 airplanes. This AD was prompted by a report of a nose landing gear (NLG) sliding tube rupture that led to a NLG collapse. This AD requires inspection of certain NLG and main landing gear (MLG) sliding tubes and applicable corrective actions and eventual replacement of all affected parts, as specified in a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, which is incorporated by reference (IBR). This AD also prohibits the installation of affected parts under certain conditions. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective March 8, 2023.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference

of a certain publication listed in this AD as of March 8, 2023.

ADDRESSES:

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2022-1295; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For EASA material incorporated by reference in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email *ADs@easa.europa.eu*; website *easa.europa.eu*. You may find this material on the EASA website at *ad.easa.europa.eu*.

- You may view this service information at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195. It is also available at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2022-1295.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hye Yoon Jang, Aerospace Engineer, Large Aircraft Section, FAA, International Validation Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 817-222-5584; email: *hye.yoon.jang@faa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all Model A318 series airplanes; Model A319-111, -112, -113, -114, -115, -131, -132, and -133 airplanes; Model A320-211, -212, -214, -216, -231, -232, and -233 airplanes; and Model A321-111, -112, -131, -211, -212, -213, -231, and -232 airplanes.

The NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on October 20, 2022 (87 FR 63715). The NPRM was prompted by AD 2021-0236, dated October 29, 2021, issued by EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union (EASA AD 2021-0236) (also referred to as the MCAI). The MCAI states that NLG sliding tube rupture, leading to NLG collapse during taxiing, occurred on a Model A320 airplane. Investigations identified overheating damage on that NLG, caused by incorrect accomplishment of a repair on the chromium-plated diameter of the sliding tube during the last NLG overhaul. Further investigations identified a batch of NLG and MLG sliding tubes that are possibly affected by a similar condition, which, if not detected and corrected, could lead to NLG or MLG structural failure and subsequent collapse of the gears, possibly resulting in damage to the airplane and injury to occupants.

In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to require inspection of certain NLG and MLG sliding tubes and applicable corrective actions and eventual replacement of all affected parts. The NPRM also proposed to prohibit the installation of affected parts under certain conditions. The FAA is issuing this AD to address NLGs and MLGs that may have been subject to the incorrect accomplishment of a repair, which, if not detected and corrected, could lead to NLG or MLG structural failure and subsequent collapse of the gears, possibly resulting in damage to the airplane and injury to occupants.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2022-1295.

Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

Comments

The FAA received a comment from the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA) who supported the NPRM without change.

Conclusion

This product has been approved by the aviation authority of another

country and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with this State of Design Authority, it has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI referenced above. The FAA reviewed the relevant data, considered the comment received, and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Accordingly, the FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on this product. Except for minor editorial changes, this AD is adopted as proposed in the NPRM. None of the changes will increase the economic burden on any operator.

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed EASA AD 2021-0236, which specifies procedures for a detailed inspection of the visible chrome surface of affected NLG and MLG sliding tubes for any discrepancies (cracks), a magnetic particle inspection (MPI) and Barkhausen noise inspection (BNI) of affected parts for any discrepancies (cracks), eventual replacement of affected parts, and corrective actions. Corrective actions include immediate replacement of the NLG or MLG sliding tube or shock absorber. This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in **ADDRESSES**.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 1,825 airplanes of U.S. registry. Currently, there are no affected U.S.-registered airplanes that would need the required actions because the affected part is not installed on any U.S.-registered airplanes. U.S.-registered airplanes therefore would need to comply with only the parts prohibition specified in this AD.

If an affected airplane is imported and placed on the U.S. Register in the future, the FAA provides the following cost estimates to comply with the required actions in this AD:

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR REQUIRED ACTIONS

Labor cost	Parts cost *	Cost per product
50 work-hours × \$85 per hour = \$4,250	\$0	\$4,250

* The FAA has received no definitive data on which to base the cost estimates for the replacement parts specified in this AD.

Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

Regulatory Findings

This AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

- (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866,
- (2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
- (3) Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

- 1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

- 2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

2023–01–01 Airbus SAS: Amendment 39–22295; Docket No. FAA–2022–1295; Project Identifier MCAI–2021–01181–T.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective March 8, 2023.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to all Airbus SAS Model airplanes specified in paragraphs (c)(1) through (4) of this AD, certificated in any category.

(1) Model A318–111, –112, –121, and –122 airplanes.

(2) Model A319–111, –112, –113, –114, –115, –131, –132, and –133 airplanes.

(3) Model A320–211, –212, –214, –216, –231, –232, and –233 airplanes.

(4) Model A321–111, –112, –131, –211, –212, –213, –231, and –232 airplanes.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 32, Landing gear.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by a report of a nose landing gear (NLG) sliding tube rupture leading to an NLG collapse. The FAA is issuing this AD to address NLGs and main landing gears (MLGs) that may have been subject to the incorrect accomplishment of a repair, which, if not detected and corrected, could lead to NLG or MLG structural failure and subsequent collapse of the gears, possibly resulting in damage to the airplane and injury to occupants.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Requirements

Except as specified in paragraphs (h) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2021–0236, dated October 29, 2021 (EASA AD 2021–0236).

(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2021–0236

(1) Where EASA AD 2021–0236 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) Where paragraph (1) of EASA AD 2021–0236 specifies to do a detailed visual inspection, replace the text "the instructions of the AOT" with "paragraphs 4.2.2.2 and 4.2.2.5 of the AOT."

(3) Where paragraph (2) of EASA AD 2021–0236 specifies to do a magnetic particle inspection (MPI) and a Barkhausen noise inspection (BNI), replace the text "the instructions of the AOT" with "paragraphs 4.2.2.3 and 4.2.2.6 of the AOT."

(4) Where paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2021–0236 specifies that "if discrepancies are detected on an affected part" for this AD discrepancies include cracking and heat damage.

(5) Where the service information referenced in EASA AD 2021–0236 specifies

to quarantine parts, this AD does not require that action.

(6) This AD does not adopt the "Remarks" section of EASA AD 2021–0236.

(i) No Reporting Requirement

Although the service information referenced in EASA AD 2021–0236 specifies to submit certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not include that requirement.

(j) Additional AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) *Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs):* The Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or responsible Flight Standards Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the International Validation Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (k) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-AVS-AIR-730-AMOC@faa.gov. Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards Office.

(2) *Contacting the Manufacturer:* For any requirement in this AD to obtain instructions from a manufacturer, the instructions must be accomplished using a method approved by the Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA; or EASA; or Airbus SAS's EASA Design Approval Organization (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(k) Additional Information

For more information about this AD, contact Hye Yoon Jang, Aerospace Engineer, Large Aircraft Section, FAA, International Validation Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 817–222–5584; email: hye.yoon.jang@faa.gov.

(l) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2021–0236, dated October 29, 2021.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For EASA AD 2021–0236, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; website easa.europa.eu. You may find this EASA AD on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu.

(4) You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206–231–3195.

(5) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, email fr.inspection@nara.gov, or go to: www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html.

Issued on January 4, 2023.

Gaetano A. Sciortino,

Acting Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2023-02010 Filed 1-31-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2022-0987; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-01416-R; Amendment 39-22298; AD 2023-01-04]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Helicopters Model AS350B, AS350BA, AS350B1, AS350B2, AS350B3, AS350D, AS355E, AS355F, AS355F1, AS355F2, AS355N, and AS355NP helicopters. This AD was prompted by an occurrence reported where during an inspection of a tail rotor head (TRH) pitch change spider, excessive play and excessive wear were detected, due to an unwanted rotating motion. This AD requires for helicopters with certain part-numbered TRH spider pitch change units installed, inspecting for correct installation of the spider pitch change nut (nut); marking a 2 to 5 mm wide black paint index mark and repetitively inspecting the alignment of the marking; and additional inspections and corrective actions if necessary. This AD also allows an affected part to be installed on a helicopter if certain requirements of this AD are met. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective March 8, 2023.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this AD as of March 8, 2023.

ADDRESSES:

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA-2022-0987; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and

5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For Airbus Helicopters service information identified in this final rule, contact Airbus Helicopters, 2701 North Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75052; telephone (972) 641-0000 or (800) 232-0323; fax (972) 641-3775; or at airbus.com/helicopters/services/technical-support.html.

- You may view this service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222-5110. It is also available at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA-2022-0987.

Other Related Service Information:

Other related Airbus Helicopters service information identified in this final rule is available at the Airbus Helicopters and FAA contact information under *Material Incorporated by Reference* above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stephanie Sunderbruch, Aerospace Engineer, Safety Risk Management Section, Systems Policy Branch, Policy & Innovation Division, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone (817) 222-4659; email Stephanie.L.Sunderbruch@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all Airbus Helicopters Model AS350B, AS350BA, AS350B1, AS350B2, AS350B3, AS350D, AS355E, AS355F, AS355F1, AS355F2, AS355N, and AS355NP helicopters. The NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on August 2, 2022 (87 FR 47141). The NPRM was prompted by EASA AD 2021-0282, dated December 17, 2021 (EASA AD 2021-0282), issued by EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, to correct an unsafe condition for Airbus Helicopters, formerly Eurocopter and Aerospatiale, Model AS 350 B, AS 350 BA, AS 350 BB, AS 350 B1, AS 350 B2, AS 350 B3, AS 350 D, AS 355 E, AS 355 F, AS 355 F1, AS 355

F2, AS 355 N, and AS 355 NP helicopters, all serial numbers. EASA advises that an occurrence was reported where, during an inspection of a TRH pitch change spider, excessive play in the assembly and excessive wear on its parts were detected, which was due to an unwanted rotating motion. EASA advises that this condition, if not addressed, could result in loss of the TRH pitch change control and loss of control of the helicopter.

Accordingly, EASA AD 2021-0282 requires a one-time check (inspection) of the nut for correct installation, accomplishing a black paint index marking, 2 to 5 mm wide, on the rotating spider and on the bearing spacer of the TRH spider pitch change unit, repetitive checks (inspections) of the marking alignment, and depending on the findings, accomplishment of additional inspections and corrective actions. The additional inspections include inspecting the TRH spider pitch change unit for corrosion; inspecting for rotation and wear on the faces of the bushes; visually inspecting the rotating plate and the rotating plate threads for damage; and inspecting the TRH spider pitch change unit if the mark is misaligned. The corrective actions include removing parts with corrosion from service; replacing bushes that rotate or have wear; and replacing damaged rotating plates. EASA AD 2021-0282 also specifies certain procedures for installation of the affected TRH spider pitch change unit.

In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to require, for helicopters with certain part-numbered TRH spider pitch change units installed, inspecting for correct installation of the nut and depending on the results, inspecting the TRH spider pitch change unit for corrosion, inspecting for rotation and wear on the faces of the bushes, inspecting the rotating plate and the rotating plate threads for damage, and removing specified parts from service and replacing them with airworthy parts. In the NPRM, the FAA also proposed to require for helicopters with certain part-numbered TRH spider pitch change units installed, marking a 2 to 5 mm wide black paint index mark to identify the position of certain parts and after the initial marking, and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 10 hours time in service (TIS), visually inspecting the alignment of the marking; and additional inspections and corrective actions if necessary. Additionally, the NPRM proposed to allow an affected part to be installed on a helicopter if certain requirements of the NPRM are met.