

Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (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. Section 39.13 is amended by removing Amendment 39-11371 (64 FR 56156, October 18, 1999), and by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD), Amendment 39-11899, to read as follows:

2000-18-13 Eurocopter Canada Ltd.:

Amendment 39-11899. Docket No. 99-SW-68-AD. Supersedes AD 99-20-13, Amendment 39-11371, Docket No. 99-SW-56-AD.

Applicability: Model BO 105 LS A-3 helicopters, with part number (P/N) 2604067 (Bendix) or J17322-1 (Lord) rotor tension torsion (TT) strap, installed, certificated in any category.

Note 1: This AD applies to each helicopter identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been otherwise modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For helicopters that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (d) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent fatigue failure of a TT strap, loss of a main rotor blade (blade), and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) Before further flight,

(1) Create a component log card or equivalent record for each TT strap.

(2) Review the history of each helicopter and TT strap. Determine the age since initial installation on any helicopter (age) and the number of flights on each TT strap. Enter both the age and the number of flights for each TT strap on the component log card or equivalent record. When the number of flights is unknown, multiply the number of hours time-in-service (TIS) by 5 to determine the number of flights. If a TT strap has been previously used at any time on Model BO-105LS A-3 "SUPER LIFTER", BO-105 CB-5, BO-105 CBS-5, BO-105 DBS-5, or any MBB-BK 117 series helicopter, multiply the

total number of flights accumulated on those other models by a factor of 1.6 and then add that result to the number of flights accumulated on the helicopters affected by this AD.

(3) Remove any TT strap from service if the total hours TIS or number of flights and age cannot be determined.

(b) Remove any TT strap, P/N 2604067 or J17322-1, that has been in service 120 months since initial installation on any helicopter or accumulated 40,000 flights (a flight is a takeoff and a landing). Replace the TT strap with an airworthy TT strap.

(c) This AD revises the Airworthiness Limitations Section of the maintenance manual by establishing a life limit for the TT strap, P/N 2604067 and J17322-1, of 120 months or 40,000 flights, whichever occurs first.

(d) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Regulations Group, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA.

Operators shall submit their requests through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may concur or comment and then send it to the Manager, Regulations Group.

Note 2: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Regulations Group.

(e) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with §§ 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the helicopter to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

(f) This amendment becomes effective on October 19, 2000.

Note 3: The subject of this AD is addressed in Transport Canada Civil Aviation, Canada, AD CF-99-24R1, dated September 22, 1999.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on September 5, 2000.

Henry A. Armstrong,

Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 00-23582 Filed 9-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 99-SW-81-AD; Amendment 39-11901; AD 2000-18-14]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft-Manufactured Model CH-54A Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This amendment supersedes an existing airworthiness directive (AD)

that applies to Sikorsky Aircraft-manufactured Model CH-54A helicopters. That AD currently requires initial and recurring inspections and rework or replacement, if necessary, of the second stage lower planetary plate (plate). This AD requires the same actions as the existing AD but would add two additional type certificate (TC) holders to the applicability of the AD and change one TC holder who has transferred ownership of the affected helicopters since the issuance of the existing AD. This amendment is prompted by the discovery that the applicability section of the existing AD is incomplete. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent failure of the plate due to fatigue cracking, which could result in failure of the main gearbox, failure of the drive system, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 19, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Uday Garadi, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Rotorcraft Standards Staff, Fort Worth, Texas 76193-0110, telephone (817) 222-5123, fax (817) 222-5961.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) by superseding AD 99-07-16, Amendment 39-11102 (64 FR 15669, April 1, 1999), which applies to Sikorsky Aircraft-manufactured Model CH-54A helicopters, was published in the **Federal Register** on April 20, 2000 (65 FR 21159). That action proposed to require initial and recurring inspections and rework or replacement, if necessary, of the plate.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. Due consideration has been given to the comments received.

The sole commenter indicates that the cost figures utilized in the economic analysis are incorrect. The FAA agrees; therefore, the approximate cost of procuring a new plate assembly is revised to \$37,333. The total cost impact of the AD is estimated to be \$507,360 to replace the plate assemblies in the entire fleet, if necessary.

After careful review of the available data, including the comments noted above, the FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule as proposed except for the change in the economic analysis.

The FAA estimates that 12 helicopters of U.S. registry will be affected by this AD. It will take approximately 8 work hours per helicopter to accomplish the inspection; 24 work hours per

helicopter to remove and rework the assembly; and 56 work hours to remove and replace the assembly from each helicopter, if necessary. Required parts, if an assembly needs to be replaced, will cost approximately \$37,333. Based on these figures, the total cost impact of the AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$511,356 (\$42,613 per helicopter, assuming inspecting the plate once, reworking the assembly once, and replacing the assembly).

The regulations adopted herein 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. Therefore, it is determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this action (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); 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. A final evaluation has been prepared for this action and it is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends part 39 of the

Federal Aviation Regulations (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. Section 39.13 is amended by removing Amendment 39-11102 (64 FR 15669, April 1, 1999), and by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD), Amendment 39-11901, to read as follows:

2000-18-14 Siller Helicopters; Aviation International Rotors, Inc. (AIR, INC); Columbia Helicopters, Inc.; Chet Raspberry, Inc. (CRI); Silver Bay Logging, Inc.: Amendment 39-11901. Docket No. 99-SW-81-AD. Supersedes AD 99-07-16, Amendment 39-11102, Docket No. 97-SW-60-AD.

Applicability: Model CH-54A helicopters with lower planetary plate, part number (P/N) 6435-20229-102, installed, certificated in any category.

Note 1: This AD applies to each helicopter identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been otherwise modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For helicopters that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (d) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent failure of the second stage lower planetary plate (plate), P/N 6435-20229-102, due to fatigue cracking, which could lead to failure of the main gearbox, failure of the drive system, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) On or before accumulating 1,300 hours time-in-service (TIS), conduct a fluorescent magnetic particle inspection of the plate, P/N 6435-20229-102, in the circumferential and longitudinal directions using the wet continuous method. Pay particular attention to the area around the 9 lightning holes.

(1) If any crack is discovered, replace the plate with an airworthy plate prior to further flight.

(2) If no crack is discovered, rework the plate as follows:

(i) Locate the center of each 1.750 inch-diameter lightning hole and machine holes 0.015 to 0.020 oversize on a side (0.030 to 0.040 diameter oversize). Machined surface roughness must not exceed 63 microinches AA rating (see Figure 1).

(ii) Radius each hole 0.030 to 0.050 inches on each edge as shown in Figure 1.

(iii) Mask the top and bottom surfaces of the plate to expose 3.20 inch minimum width circumferential band as shown in Figure 1.

(iv) Vapor blast or bead exposed surfaces to remove protective finish. Use 220 aluminum oxide grit at a pressure of 80 to 90 pounds per square inch.

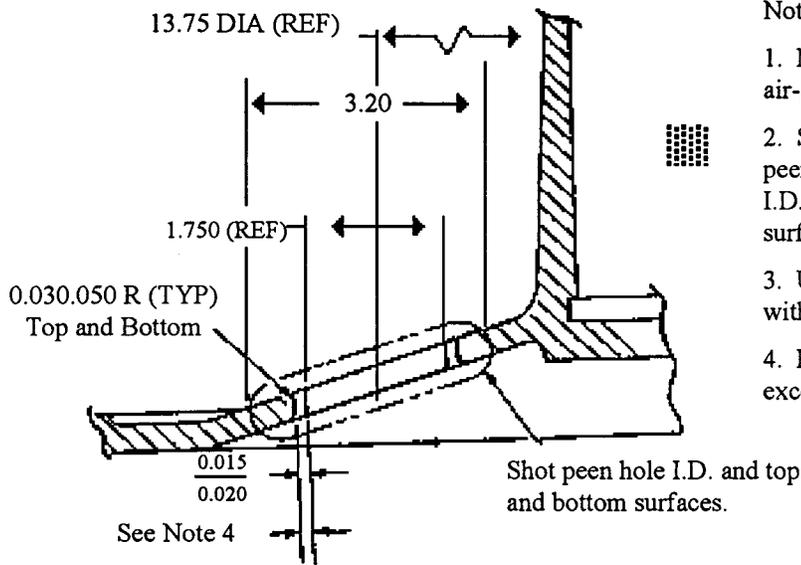
(v) Shot peen exposed surfaces and inside and edges of lightning holes to 0.008—0.012A intensity. Use cast steel shot, size 170; 200 percent coverage is required. Use the tracer dye inspection method to ensure the required coverage. Also, visually inspect the shot peened surfaces for correct shot peen coverage. Inspect the intensity of the shot by performing an Almen strip height measurement.

(vi) Clean reworked surfaces using acetone. Touch up the reworked areas using Presto Black or an equivalent touchup solution. Ensure that the touchup solution is at a temperature between 70° F to 120° F during use. Keep the reworked surfaces wet with touchup solution for 3 minutes to obtain a uniform dark color. Rinse and dry the reworked areas.

(vii) Polish the reworked surfaces with a grade 00 or finer steel wool and polish with a soft cloth. Coat the reworked surfaces with preservative oil.

(viii) Identify the reworked plate by adding "TS-107" after the part number using a low-stress depth-controlled impression-stamp with a full fillet depth of not more than 0.003 inch (see Figure 1).

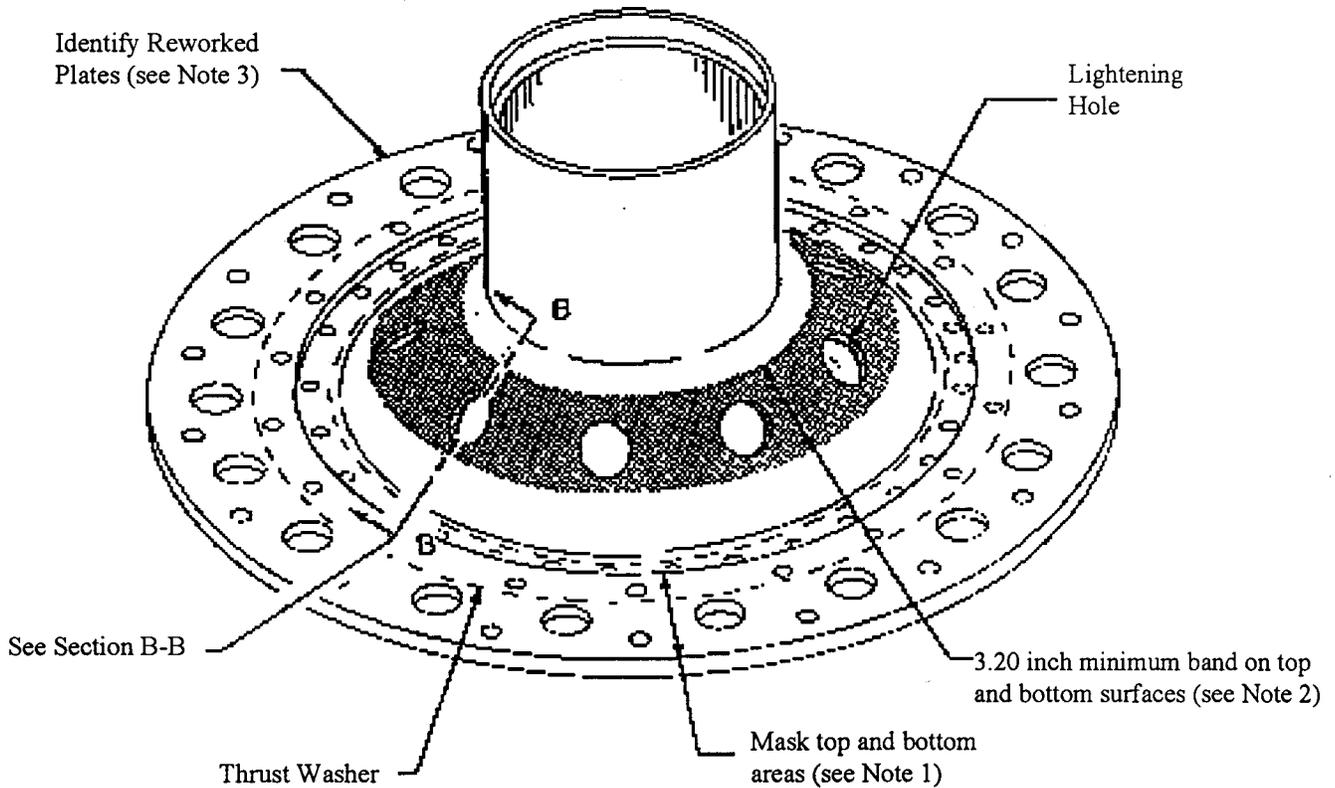
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Section B-B
(Typical Nine Places)

Notes:

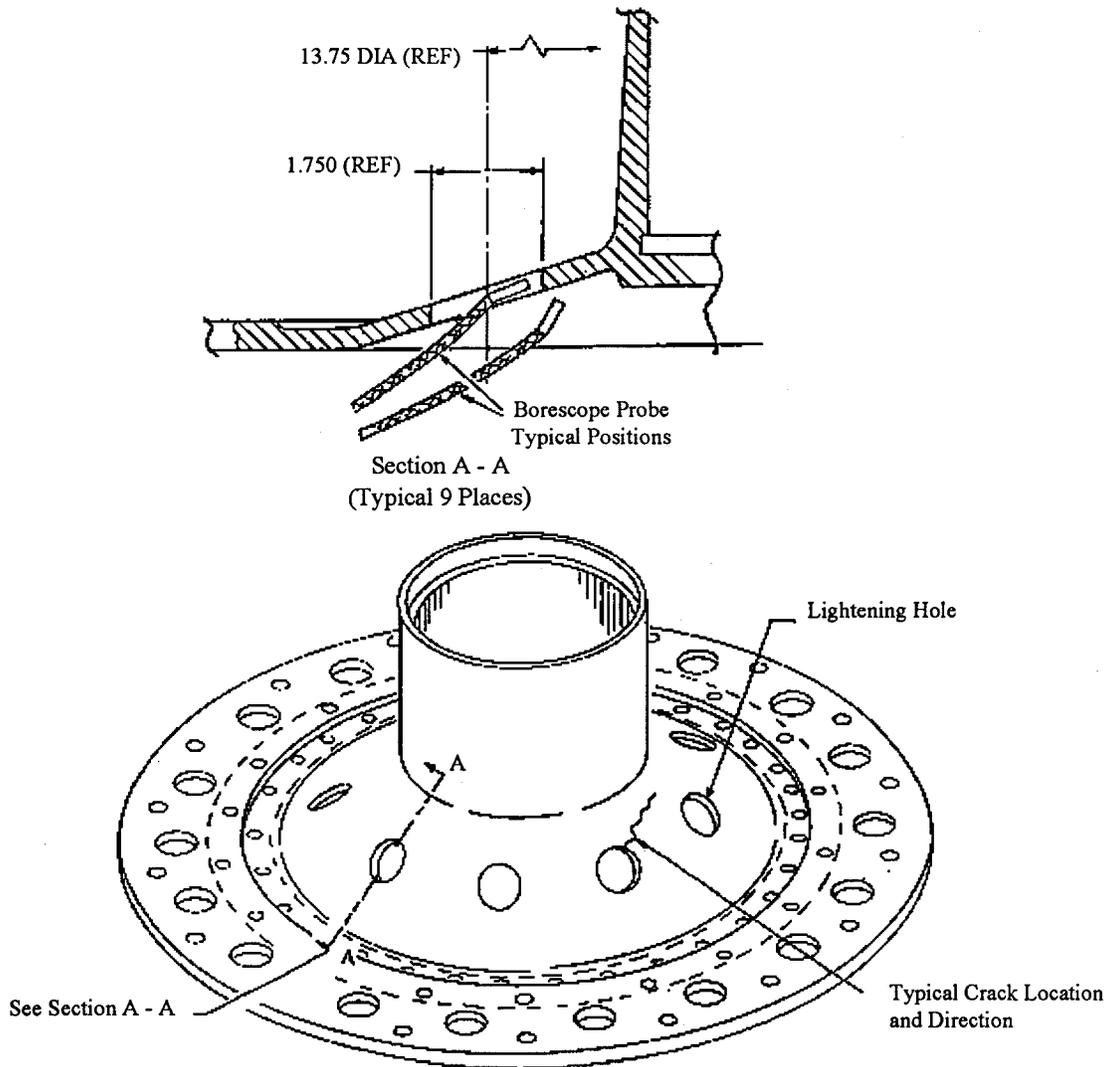
1. Mask top and bottom areas to protect from liquid air-grit and shot peen.
2. Shaded area to be liquid air-grit blasted and shot peened includes plate top and bottom surfaces and I.D. of all lightening holes. Feather shot peened surface edges.
3. Use low-stress depth controlled impression-stamp with full fillet depth of no more than 0.003 inch.
4. Reworked machined surface roughness shall not exceed 63 microinches AA rating.



Rework of Second Stage
Lower Planetary Plate (6435-20229-102)
Figure 1

(b) For any plate, P/N 6435-20229-102, that has been reworked and identified with "TS-107," on or before the accumulation of 1,500 hours TIS and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 70 hours TIS, accomplish the following:

- (1) Inspect the plate for a crack in the area around all nine lightening holes using a Borescope or equivalent inspection method (see Figure 2).
- (2) If a crack is found, replace the plate with an airworthy plate prior to further flight.



**Borescope Inspection of
Second Stage Lower Planetary Plate
Figure 2**

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(c) On or before the accumulation of 2,600 hours TIS, remove from service plates, P/N 6435-20229-102, reidentified as P/N 6435-20229-102-TS-107 after rework. This AD revises the airworthiness limitation section of the maintenance manual by establishing a retirement life of 2,600 hours TIS for the main gearbox assembly second stage lower planetary plate, P/N 6435-20229-102, reidentified as P/N 6435-20229-102-TS-107 after rework.

(d) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Rotorcraft Certification Office, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA. Operators shall submit their requests through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may concur or comment and then send it to the Manager, Rotorcraft Certification Office.

Note 2: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be

obtained from the Rotorcraft Certification Office.

(e) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the helicopter to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

(f) This amendment becomes effective on October 19, 2000.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on September 5, 2000.

Henry A. Armstrong,

Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 00-23583 Filed 9-13-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-SW-39-AD; Amendment 39-11900; AD 2000-16-52]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS350B3 Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document publishes in the **Federal Register** an amendment adopting Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2000-16-52 which was sent previously to all known U.S. owners and operators of Eurocopter France (ECF) Model AS350B3 helicopters by individual letters. This AD requires visually inspecting the heat shield attachment areas on the tail rotor drive shaft forward fairing (fairing) for a crack. This AD also requires, at specified time intervals, removing the fairing and inspecting the heat shield attachment areas on the fairing for a crack. If a crack is found, this AD requires replacing the fairing with an airworthy fairing. This amendment is prompted by an in-flight loss of the fairing heat shield due to cracking in the areas where the heat shield is attached to the fairing. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent an in-flight loss of the heat shield, impact with tail or main rotor blades, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

DATES: Effective September 29, 2000, to all persons except those persons to whom it was made immediately effective by Emergency AD 2000-16-52, issued on August 11, 2000, which contained the requirements of this amendment.

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before November 13, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000-SW-

39-AD, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137. You may also send comments electronically to the Rules Docket at the following address: 9_asw_adcomments@faa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Grigg, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Regulations Group, Fort Worth, Texas 76193-0111, telephone (817) 222-5490, fax (817) 222-5961.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 11, 2000, the FAA issued Emergency AD 2000-16-52 for ECF Model AS350B3 helicopters which requires visually inspecting the heat shield attachment areas on the fairing for a crack. That Emergency AD also requires, at specified time intervals, removing the fairing and inspecting the heat shield attachment areas on the fairing for a crack. If a crack is found, the Emergency AD requires replacing the fairing with an airworthy fairing. That action was prompted by an in-flight loss of the fairing heat shield due to cracking in the areas where the heat shield is attached to the fairing. This condition, if not corrected, could result in an in-flight loss of the heat shield, impact with tail or main rotor blades, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

Since the unsafe condition described is likely to exist or develop on other ECF Model AS350B3 helicopters of the same type design, the FAA issued Emergency AD 2000-16-52 to prevent an in-flight loss of the heat shield, impact with tail or main rotor blades, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter. The AD requires, before the first flight of each day, visually inspecting the heat shield attachment areas on the fairing for a crack. The AD also requires within 50 hours time-in-service (TIS) and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 50 hours TIS, removing the fairing and inspecting the heat shield attachment areas on the fairing for a crack. If a crack is found, the AD requires replacing the fairing with an airworthy fairing. The short compliance time involved is required because the previously described critical unsafe condition can adversely affect the structural integrity and controllability of the helicopter. Therefore, the actions listed previously are required before the first flight of each day, and this AD must be issued immediately.

Since it was found that immediate corrective action was required, notice and opportunity for prior public comment thereon were impracticable and contrary to the public interest, and good cause existed to make the AD effective immediately by individual letters issued on August 11, 2000 to all

known U.S. owners and operators of ECF Model AS350B3 helicopters. These conditions still exist, and the AD is hereby published in the **Federal Register** as an amendment to section 39.13 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 39.13) to make it effective to all persons.

The FAA estimates that 22 helicopters of U.S. registry will be affected by this AD. It will take approximately 0.25 work hour per helicopter to inspect the fairing without removing it from the helicopter; and 2 work hours per helicopter to remove, inspect, and reinstall the fairing. The average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Required parts if the fairing needs to be replaced will cost approximately \$1217 per helicopter. Based on these figures, the total cost impact of the AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$13,530 per month, assuming 25 fairing inspections, 2 fairing removals and inspections, and no fairing replacements.

Comments Invited

Although this action is in the form of a final rule that involves requirements affecting flight safety and, thus, was not preceded by notice and an opportunity for public comment, comments are invited on this rule. Interested persons are invited to comment on this rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications should identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified under the caption **ADDRESSES**. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered, and this rule may be amended in light of the comments received. Factual information that supports the commenter's ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of the AD action and determining whether additional rulemaking action would be needed.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the rule that might suggest a need to modify the rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report that summarizes each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this AD will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their mailed comments submitted in response to this rule must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: