Group 2 as “all 777–200 airplanes with GE90 engines through line number 413 without a forward insulation blanket”; however, for paragraph (h) of this AD, Group 2 is defined as “all 777–200 airplanes with GE90 engines without a forward insulation blanket.”

(3) Boeing Service Bulletin 777–78A0066, Revision 3, dated April 28, 2011, defines Group 2 Configuration 1 as “all 777–200 airplanes with GE90 engines through line number 413 without a forward insulation blanket and without the fitting assembly at the aft insulation blanket location”; however, for paragraph (h) of this AD, Group 2 Configuration 1 is defined as “all 777–200 airplanes with GE90 engines without a forward insulation blanket and without the fitting assembly at the aft insulation blanket location.”

(4) Boeing Service Bulletin 777–78A0066, Revision 3, dated April 28, 2011, defines Group 2 Configuration 2 as “all 777–200 airplanes with GE90 engines through line number 413 without a forward insulation blanket and with the fitting assembly at the aft insulation blanket location”; however, for paragraph (h) of this AD, Group 2 Configuration 2 is defined as “all 777–200 airplanes with GE90 engines without a forward insulation blanket and with the fitting assembly at the aft insulation blanket location.”

(j) Credit for Previous Actions

This paragraph provides credit for the actions specified in paragraphs (g) and (h) of this AD, if those actions were performed before the effective date of this AD using one of the service bulletins specified in paragraphs (j)(1) through (3) of this AD.


(2) Boeing Service Bulletin 777–78A0066, Revision 1, dated March 12, 2009.

(3) Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777–78A0066, Revision 2, dated April 8, 2010.

(k) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Seattle ACO 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 local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the certification office, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (l)(1) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-ANM-Seattle-ACO-AMOC-Requests@faa.gov.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/ certificate holding district office.

(3) An AMOC that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used for any repair, modification, or alteration required by this AD if it is approved by The Boeing Company Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) that has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO Branch, FAA, to make those findings. To be approved, the repair method, modification deviation, or alteration deviation must meet the certification basis of the airplane, and the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

(4) AMOCs approved previously for AD 2010–26–01 are approved as AMOCs for the corresponding provisions of paragraph (g) of this AD.

(l) Related Information

(1) For more information about this AD, contact James Laubaug, Aerospace Engineer, Propulsion Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: 206–231–3622; email: james.laubaugh@faa.gov.

(2) Service information identified in this AD that is not incorporated by reference is available at the addresses specified in paragraphs (m)(5) and (6) of this AD.

(m) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) 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 this AD specifies otherwise.

(3) The following service information was approved for IBR on April 24, 2020.

(i) Boeing Service Bulletin 777–78A0066, Revision 3, dated April 28, 2011.

(ii) [Reserved]

(4) The following service information was approved for IBR on January 20, 2011 (75 FR 78594, December 16, 2010).

(i) Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777–78A0066, Revision 2, dated April 8, 2010.

(ii) [Reserved]

(5) For service information identified in this AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminster Blvd., MC 110–SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740–5600; telephone 562–797–1717.

(6) You may view this service information at the FAA, Transport Standards Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206–231–3195.

(7) 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 fedreg.legal@nara.gov, or go to: https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html.

Issued on March 9, 2020.

Lance T. Gant, Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2020–05709 Filed 3–19–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


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 Airbus Helicopters Model AS332C, AS332C1, AS332L, and AS332L1 helicopters. This AD requires inspecting the attachment screws of each main gearbox (MGB) suspension bar rear attachment fitting, and depending on the outcome, applying a sealing compound, performing further inspections, and replacing affected parts. This AD was prompted by reports of an elongated attachment screw and loss of tightening torque of the nut. The actions of this AD are intended to address an unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective April 24, 2020.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain document listed in this AD as of April 24, 2020.

ADDRESSES: For service information identified in this final rule, contact Airbus Helicopters, 2701 N. Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75052; telephone 972–641–0000 or 800–232–0323; fax 972–641–3775; or at https://www.airbus.com/helicopters/services/technical-support.html. You may view this referenced service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy. Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. It is also available on the internet at https://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2019–0882.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the internet at https://www.regulations.gov in Docket No. FAA–2019–0882; 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 AD, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (previously European Aviation Safety Agency) (EASA) AD, any service information that is
incorporated by reference, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is Docket Operations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matt Fuller, Senior Aviation Safety Engineer, Safety Management Section, Rotorcraft Standards Branch, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone 817–222–5110; email matthew.fuller@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

On November 8, 2019, at 84 FR 60349, the Federal Register published the FAA’s notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), which proposed to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to Airbus Helicopters Model AS332C, AS332C1, AS332L, and AS332L1 helicopters. The FAA is issuing this rulemaking action. The design approval holder is currently developing a modification that will address the unsafe condition identified in this AD. The FAA is issuing this AD after evaluating all information provided by EASA and determining the unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other helicopters of these same type designs and that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD requirements as proposed.

Interim Action

The FAA considers this AD interim action. The design approval holder is currently developing a modification that will address the unsafe condition identified in this AD. Once this modification is developed, approved, and available, the FAA might consider additional rulemaking.

Differences Between This AD and the EASA AD

The EASA AD requires the operator to perform a torque check and report the value to Airbus, whereas this AD does not.

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed Airbus Helicopters Alert Service Bulletin No. AS332–53.02.04, Revision 0, dated November 21, 2018, which specifies checking the number of threads that protrude beyond the bolt of the attachment screws on the RH and LH rear attachment fittings of the MGB. This service information also specifies a one-time inspection of the affected parts and depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective actions.

This service information is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 14 helicopters of U.S. Registry. The FAA estimates that operators may incur the following costs in order to comply with this AD. Labor costs are estimated at $85 per work-hour.

Inspecting the number of threads and applying a sealing compound takes about 3 work-hours for an estimated cost of $255 per helicopter and $3,570 for the U.S. fleet.

Replacing an attachment fitting and the set of four screws takes about 16 work-hours and parts cost $6,330 for an estimated replacement cost of $7,690.

Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA’s authority to issue rules on aviation safety. 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 helicopters 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.

Adoption of 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

§ 39.13 [Amended]

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 (AD):


(a) Applicability

This AD applies to Airbus Helicopters Model AS332C, AS332C1, AS332L and AS332L1 helicopters, certificated in any category, delivered to the first owner or customer before September 1, 2018, and with attachment screws part number (P/N) 330A22013520 installed with main gearbox (MGB) right hand (RH) side rear attachment fitting P/N 330A22270207 and left hand (LH) side rear attachment fitting P/N 330A22270206 of the MGB suspension bars.

(b) Unsafe Condition

This AD defines the unsafe condition as elongation of the attachment screws and loss of tightening torque of the nut. This condition could result in structural failure of an MGB attachment fitting, detachment of an MGB suspension bar, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

(c) Effective Date

This AD becomes effective April 24, 2020.

(d) Compliance

You are responsible for performing each action required by this AD within the specified compliance time unless it has already been accomplished prior to that time.

(e) Required Actions

Within 110 hours time-in-service, remove the sealing compound and inspect each screw on the RH and LH rear attachment fitting by identifying the number of threads “F” that extend beyond the nut as shown in Detail “B” of Figure 2 of Airbus Helicopter Alert Service Bulletin No. AS332–53.02.04, Revision 0, dated November 21, 2018 (ASB AS332–53.02.04).

(1) If there are 2 or less threads on each of the four screws; or there are 3 or more threads on any screw with a thread height “H” less than 5 mm (0.196 in), before further flight, apply a sealing compound on the nuts, and convex and concave washers.

(2) If there are 3 or more threads on any screw with a thread height “H” of 5 mm (0.196 in) or more, before further flight, do the following, and for more than one screw, do one at a time while working in a cross pattern: Remove from service the nut; and remove the screw from the helicopter and measure the length “L” of the screw as shown in Detail “D” of Figure 2 of ASB AS332–53.02.04.

(i) If any washers are bent or corroded, before further flight, remove from service the washers.

(ii) If the length “L” measurement is less than or equal to 59.3 mm (2.334 in) for each screw removed as required by paragraph (e)(2) of this AD, visually inspect the screw for corrosion and cracks.

(A) For each screw with corrosion or a crack, before further flight, replace the screw with an airworthy screw.

(B) For any screw with no corrosion or cracks, before further flight, re-install the screw and washers. Install a new nut and apply sealant.

(iii) If the length “L” measurement is greater than 59.3 mm (2.334 in) for any screw removed as required by paragraph (e)(2) of this AD, before further flight, replace the rear attachment fitting that the screw was removed from and its set of four screws, washers, and nuts, and apply sealant as shown in Figures 2 and 3 of ASB AS332–53.02.04.

(f) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Safety Management Section, Rotorcraft Standards Branch, FAA, may approve AMOCs for this AD. Send your proposal to: Matt Fuller, Senior Aviation Safety Engineer, Safety Management Section, Rotorcraft Standards Branch, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone 817–222–5110; email 9-ASW-FTW-AMOC-Requests@faa.gov.

(2) For operations conducted under a 14 CFR part 119 operating certificate or under 14 CFR part 91, subpart K, the FAA suggests that you notify your principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office or certificate holding district office, before operating any aircraft complying with this AD through an AMOC.

(g) Additional Information


(b) Subject

Joint Aircraft Service Component (JASC) Code: 6320, Main Rotor Gearbox.

(i) 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.


(ii) [Reserved]

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

(4) You may view this service information at 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.

(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 fedreg.legal@nara.gov, or go to: https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html.


Lance T. Gant,
Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2020–05848 Filed 3–19–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P