§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive (AD):


(a) Comments Due Date

The FAA must receive comments by November 30, 2020.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

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


(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 35, Oxygen.

(e) Reason

This AD was prompted by reports that certain oxygen supply solenoid valves are a potential source of increased flow resistance within the flightcrew oxygen system. The FAA is issuing this AD to address increased flow resistance within the flightcrew oxygen system, which could lead to a reduced flow of oxygen supply to the flightcrew oxygen masks, and in combination with in-flight depressurization, smoke in the flight deck, or a smoke evacuation procedure, could lead to flightcrew hypoxia and loss of useful consciousness, resulting in loss of control of the airplane.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Requirements

Except as specified in paragraph (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 2020–0104, dated May 7, 2020 (“EASA AD 2020–0104”).

(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2020–0104

(1) Where EASA AD 2020–0104 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) The “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2020–0104 does not apply to this AD.

(i) No Reporting Requirement

Although the service information referenced in EASA AD 2020–0104 specifies to submit certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not include that requirement.

(j) Other FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, Large Aircraft Section, 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 local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the Large Aircraft Section, International Validation Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (k)(2) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-AVIS-AIR-730-AMOC@faa.gov. 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.

(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, Large Aircraft Section, International Validation Branch, FAA; or EASA; or Airbus SAS’s EASA Design Organization Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(3) Required for Compliance (RC): For any service information referenced in EASA AD 2020–0104 that contains RC procedures and tests: Except as required by paragraph (j)(2) of this AD, RC procedures and tests must be done with this AD; any procedures or tests that are not identified as RC are recommended. Those procedures and tests that are not identified as RC may be deviated from using accepted methods in accordance with the operator’s maintenance or inspection program without obtaining approval of an AMOC, provided the procedures and tests identified as RC can be done and the airplane can be put back in an airworthy condition. Any substitutions or changes to procedures or tests identified as RC require approval of an AMOC.

(k) Related Information

(1) For information about EASA AD 2020–0104, contact the EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 89990 6017; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; Internet: www.easa.europa.eu. You may find this EASA AD on the EASA website at https://ad.easa.europa.eu. 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. This material may be found in the AD docket on the internet at https://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2020–0851.

(2) For more information about this AD, contact Sanjay Ralhan, Aerospace Engineer, Large Aircraft Section, International Validation Branch, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, IA 50318; telephone and fax 515–272–6462; email Sanjay.Ralhan@faa.gov.

Issued on September 18, 2020.

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

[FR Doc. 2020–22741 Filed 10–14–20; 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: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for Airbus Helicopters Model AS350B3 helicopters. This proposed AD would require modifying the electrical system of the throttle twist grip, inspecting the routing of a microswitch electrical harness, and correcting the electrical harness routing if it is incorrect. This proposed AD was prompted by reports of the engine remaining in idle when the twist grip was turned from the “forced idle” position to the “flight” position. The actions of this proposed AD are intended to address an unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: The FAA must receive comments on this proposed AD by November 30, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments by any of the following methods:

• Federal eRulemaking Docket: Go to https://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

• Fax: 202–493–2251.

• Mail: Send comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 120 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

• Hand Delivery: Deliver to the “Mail” address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Examining the AD Docket

between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this proposed AD, the European Aviation Safety Agency (now European Union Aviation Safety Agency) (EASA) AD, any comments received and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

For service information identified in this proposed 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 the referenced service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
George Schwab, Aviation Safety Engineer, Safety Management Section, Rotorcraft Standards Branch, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone 817–222–5110.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Comments Invited
The FAA invites you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written comments, data, or views. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. To ensure the docket does not contain duplicate comments, commenters should send only one copy of written comments, or if comments are filed electronically, commenters should submit only one time.

Except for Confidential Business Information (CBI) as described in the following paragraph, and other information as described in 14 CFR 11.35, the FAA will file in the docket all comments received, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerning this proposed rulemaking. Before acting on this proposal, the FAA will consider all comments received on or before the closing date for comments. The FAA will consider comments filed after the comment period has closed if it is possible to do so without incurring expense or delay. The FAA may change this proposal in light of the comments received.

Confidential Business Information
Confidential Business Information (CBI) is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this NPRM contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this NPRM, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission containing CBI as “PROPRIETARY.” The FAA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public docket of this NPRM. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to George Schwab, Aviation Safety Engineer, Safety Management Section, Rotorcraft Standards Branch, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone 817–222–5110. Any commentary that the FAA receives which is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

Discussion
EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued a series of ADs, most recently EASA AD No. 2017–0035, dated February 20, 2017 (EASA AD 2017–0035), to correct an unsafe condition for Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter) Model AS 350 B3 helicopters with ARIERLE 2B engines installed. EASA advises of an initial report of the microswitch pin jammed in the pushed-in position resulting in the engine remaining in idle when the twist grip had been turned back to the “flight” position during an autorotation training exercise. This condition could also occur during governor failure training when the twist grip is turned in the low flow rate direction. EASA also advises of two later reports of this condition, with one of those reports related to an incorrectly routed electrical harness. EASA advises that this condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to reduced control of the helicopter.

EASA initially issued AD No. 2006–0094, dated April 21, 2006, which required repetitive testing of the microswitch and established a life limit for the microswitch. Subsequent EASA AD action required reducing that life limit, inspecting the travel of the collective lever, performing an additional check of the collective lever for free travel, and installing a terminating action modification that was available for certain helicopter configurations. That modification gave priority to the HydroMechanical Unit (HMU) flight position when the microswitch failed to operate correctly at forced idle. EASA most recently issued AD 2017–0035, which prompted this AD action, to include all of the previous AD requirements and expand the terminating action modification to other helicopter configurations.

FAA’s Determination
These helicopters have been approved by EASA and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA’s bilateral agreement with the European Union, EASA has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in its AD. The FAA is proposing this AD because the FAA evaluated all known relevant information and determined that an unsafe condition is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type designs.

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51
The FAA reviewed Airbus Helicopters Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. AS350–67.00.43, Revision 3, dated June 16, 2016, which specifies procedures, based on different configurations, to modify the electrical operation to give priority to the HMU flight position when the microswitch does not operate correctly at forced idle (corresponds to Airbus Helicopters Modification (MOD) 073357). This service information also specifies instructions to inspect the routing of microswitch electrical harness number “53K.”

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.

Other Related Service Information
The FAA also reviewed Eurocopter ASB No. 05.00.49, Revision 3, dated March 8, 2012. This service information specifies procedures, for helicopters without MOD 073357 installed, for repetitive testing of the microswitch, a life limit for the microswitch, inspecting the travel of the collective lever, and verifying correct wiring harness installation.

Proposed AD Requirements
This proposed AD would require, based on helicopter configuration, modifying the electrical system of the throttle twist grip. This proposed AD would also require inspecting the routing of a microswitch electrical harness, and depending on the routing of that electrical harness, correcting the routing.
Differences Between This Proposed AD and the EASA AD

The EASA AD specifies a repetitive test of the microswitch, a life limit for the microswitch, and inspecting the travel in the collective lever, until the terminating action of modifying the electrical system of the throttle twist grip and inspecting the routing of a microswitch electrical harness are completed. This proposed AD would only require modifying the electrical system of the throttle twist grip and inspecting the routing of a microswitch electrical harness. The EASA AD specifies performing that terminating action in a compliance time of calendar months. This proposed AD would require performing the required actions before the next practice autorotation, before the next simulated governor failure, or within 330 hours time-in-service, whichever occurs first.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this proposed AD would affect 517 helicopters of U.S. Registry. The FAA estimates that operators may incur the following costs in order to comply with this proposed AD. Labor costs are estimated at $85 per work-hour.

Modifying the electrical system and inspecting the electrical harness routing would take about 30 work-hours and parts would cost about $9,692 for an estimated cost of $12,242 per helicopter and $6,329,114 for the U.S. fleet.

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

The FAA determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD would not have significant regulatory impact under Executive Order 12866. The FAA also certifies that the proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13045 or have unduly burdened small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

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

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 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 AS350B3 helicopters, certified in any category, with a Turbomeca ARRIEL 2B engine installed.

(b) Unsafe Condition

This AD defines the unsafe condition as failure of the electrical operation of the throttle twist grip, which can prevent switching from “IDLE” mode to “FLIGHT” mode. During autorotation training or during governor failure training (when the throttle grip is turned in the low flow direction), this condition prohibits recovery from a practice autorotation and compels the pilot to continue the autorotation to the ground. This condition could result in unintended touchdown to the ground at a flight-idle power setting, damage to the helicopter, and injury to occupants.

(c) Comments Due Date

The FAA must receive comments by November 30, 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

Before the next practice autorotation, before the next simulated governor failure, or within 330 hours time-in-service, whichever occurs first, modify the electrical operation of the throttle twist grip to give priority to the HydroMechanical Unit flight position when the microswitch does not operate correctly at forced idle (corresponds to Airbus Helicopters Modification (MOD) 073357) as follows:

1. For helicopters without MOD 073087 and without MOD 073135 installed:

(i) Install box “69K” on the Full Authority Digital Engine Control plate, relay “81K” on frame X1310, install fuses on the console end comprising circuit-breaker panels “31 ALPHA” and “32 ALPHA,” and modify the electrical wiring by following the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 3.B.2.a. of Airbus Helicopters Alert Service Bulletin No. AS350–67.00.43, Revision 3, dated June 16, 2016 (ASB AS350–67.00.43), except you are not required to discard parts.

(ii) Inspect the routing of microswitch electrical harness “53K” for correct installation by following paragraph 3.B.2.e. of ASB AS350–67.00.43. If the wiring routing is incorrect, before further flight, correct the wiring routing by following paragraph 3.B.2.f. of ASB AS350–67.00.43.

2. For helicopters with MOD 073087 (series) and without MOD 073135 installed:

(i) Install relays “54K” and “81K” on frame X1310 and modify the electrical wiring by following paragraph 3.B.2.b. of ASB AS350–67.00.43.

(ii) Inspect the routing of microswitch electrical harness “53K” for correct installation by following paragraph 3.B.2.e. of ASB AS350–67.00.43. If the wiring routing is incorrect, before further flight, correct the wiring routing by following paragraph 3.B.2.f. of ASB AS350–67.00.43.

3. For helicopters with MOD 073087 (retrofit) and without MOD 073135 installed:

(i) Install relay “81K” on frame X1310 and modify the electrical wiring by following paragraph 3.B.2.c. of ASB AS350–67.00.43.

(ii) Inspect the routing of microswitch electrical harness “53K” for correct installation by following paragraph 3.B.2.e. of ASB AS350–67.00.43. If the wiring routing is incorrect, before further flight, correct the wiring routing by following paragraph 3.B.2.f. of ASB AS350–67.00.43.

4. For helicopters with MOD 073087 and with MOD 073135 installed:

(i) Install relay “81K” on frame X1310 and modify the electrical wiring by following paragraph 3.B.2.d. of ASB AS350–67.00.43.

(ii) Inspect the routing of microswitch electrical harness “53K” for correct installation by following paragraph 3.B.2.e. of ASB AS350–67.00.43. If the wiring routing is incorrect, before further flight, correct the wiring routing by following paragraph 3.B.2.f. of ASB AS350–67.00.43.

5. For helicopters with MOD 073084 and with MOD 073222 installed:

(i) Install relay “81K” on frame X1310 and modify the electrical wiring by following paragraph 3.B.2.g. of ASB AS350–67.00.43, except you are not required to discard parts.
(ii) Inspect the routing of microswitch electrical harness “53K” for correct installation by following paragraph 3.B.2.e. of ASB AS350–67.00.43. If the wiring routing is incorrect, before further flight, correct the wiring routing by following paragraph 3.B.2.f. of ASB AS350–67.00.43. (f) Special Flight Permits

Special flight permits are prohibited.

(g) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Rotorcraft Standards Branch, FAA, may approve AMOCs for this AD. Send your proposal to: George Schwab, Aviation Safety Engineer, Safety Management Section, Rotorcraft Standards Branch, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone 817–222–5110; email 9-AEW-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.

(h) Additional Information

(1) Eurocopter Alert Service Bulletin No. 05.00.49. Revision 3, dated March 8, 2012, which is not incorporated by reference, contains additional information about the subject of this AD. 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. You may view the referenced service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177.


(i) Subject


Issued on October 6, 2020.

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

[FR Doc. 2020–22744 Filed 10–14–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs
15 CFR Part 1500
[Docket No.: 200901–0230]
RIN 0605–AA56

Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education and Promotion Order; Referendum Procedures

AGENCY: Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, United States Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2018 (the Act), the Department of Commerce (Department) solicits comments on proposed procedures for conducting a referendum to determine whether manufacturers of concrete masonry units favor the issuance of a proposed Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Order (proposed order).

The purpose of the proposed order is to strengthen the position of the concrete masonry products industry in the domestic marketplace; maintain, develop, and expand markets and uses for concrete masonry products in the domestic marketplace; and promote the use of concrete masonry products in construction and building. The Department published the proposed order in the Federal Register on August 24, 2020. The Act requires industry to approve the proposed order via a referendum. If industry approves the proposed order, the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) will issue a final order and appoint a Board to carry out the duties prescribed by that order, which would include an industry-funded research, education, and promotion program. The Department also would follow these procedures for any subsequent referendum under the Act. This proposal also announces the intent of the Department to request approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of two new information collection requests (ICRs) to support implementation of the referendum.

DATES: The Department must receive comments November 16, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to https://beta.regulations.gov/docket/DOC-2020-0003 click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. The supporting economic analysis is also available for comment on regulations.gov.

All submissions, including attachments and other supporting materials, will become part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. The Department reserves the right to publish relevant comments, unedited and in their entirety. Do not include personal information, such as account numbers or Social Security numbers, or names of other individuals. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise proprietary, sensitive or protected information. We will not post or consider comments that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language or like content.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), send to the above address comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, or any other aspect of this collection of information. In addition, send comments concerning the information collection to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or online at https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Thompson, Communications for the Commerce Checkoff Implementation Program, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, telephone: (202) 482–0671 or via electronic mail: mthompson1@doc.gov.

I. Legal Background

Pursuant to the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2018, 15 U.S.C. 8701 et seq., the Department is enacting a research, education, and promotion program (commonly referred to as a checkoff program) for concrete masonry products. The Act specifically authorizes the Secretary to conduct the referendum, and states that “[referenda] . . . shall be conducted in a manner determined by the Secretary.” 15 U.S.C. 8706(c)(1). The Act also authorizes the Secretary to “issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out [the Act] and the power vested in the Secretary under [the Act].” 15 U.S.C. 8713.

The Department’s actions to bring the program to fruition will include: (1) implementing an order that will effectuate the purpose of the Act; (2) conducting a referendum among the industry to determine whether the industry approves of being subject to the implementing order; and, upon an affirmative vote on the order, (3) issuing