

(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 manager of the International Validation Branch, mail it to the address 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 Organization Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(3) *Required for Compliance (RC)*: Except as required by paragraph (j)(2) of this AD, if any service information contains procedures or tests that are identified as RC, those procedures and tests must be done to comply 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) Additional Information

For more information about this AD, contact Dat Le, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; telephone: 516-228-7300; email: 9-avs-nyaco-cos@faa.gov.

(l) 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.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2023-0189, dated October 31, 2023.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For EASA AD 2023-0189, 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 material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations, or email fr.inspection@nara.gov.

Issued on April 4, 2024.

Victor Wicklund,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-07574 Filed 4-9-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. FAA-2024-0997; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01306-R]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. 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 all Leonardo S.p.a. Model AB139 and AW139 helicopters. This proposed AD was prompted by multiple reports of cracks found on tail rotor (TR) damper bracket assemblies. This proposed AD would require accomplishing repetitive detailed visual inspections (DVI) of certain part-numbered TR damper bracket assemblies for corrosion and cracks and, depending on the results, taking corrective action. This proposed AD would also prohibit installing an affected TR damper bracket assembly unless it is new. These actions are specified in a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, which is proposed for incorporation by reference. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: The FAA must receive comments on this NPRM by May 28, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* (202) 493-2251.
- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-

30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

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

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA-2024-0997; 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 NPRM, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

• For EASA material, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; internet easa.europa.eu. You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu.

• You may view this material 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. The EASA material is also available at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA-2024-0997.

Other Related Service Information:

For Leonardo Helicopters service information, contact Leonardo S.p.A., Emanuele Bufano, Head of Airworthiness, Viale G. Agusta 520, 21017 C. Costa di Samarate (Va) Italy; telephone (+39) 0331-225074; fax (+39) 0331-229046; or at customerportal.leonardocompany.com/en-US/. You may also view this service information at the FAA contact information under *Material Incorporated by Reference* above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sungmo Cho, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (781) 238-7241; email: Sungmo.D.Cho@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Comments Invited**

The FAA invites you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposal. Send your comments to an address listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include "Docket No. FAA-2024-0997; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01306-R" at the beginning of your comments. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing

date and may amend this proposal because of those comments.

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 post all comments received, without change, to *regulations.gov*, including any personal information you provide. The agency will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this NPRM.

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 "PROPIN." 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 Sungmo Cho, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (781) 238-7241; email: Sungmo.D.Cho@faa.gov. Any commentary that the FAA receives which is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

Background

EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, previously issued EASA AD 2022-0154, dated August 1, 2022 (EASA AD 2022-0154) for all serial-numbered Leonardo S.p.A. Model AB139 and AW139 helicopters. EASA stated in AD 2022-0154 that during scheduled inspections, some TR damper bracket assemblies were found cracked and that subsequent investigation revealed that the cracks originated from the outer edges of the TR damper bracket lug bores and were due to stress corrosion. That condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to fracture of the affected part (TR damper bracket assembly), possibly resulting in failure of the TR damper, and consequent loss of control of the helicopter. Therefore, EASA AD 2022-0154 required repetitive DVIs of the affected part for cracks and corrosion, and, depending on findings,

replacing the affected part with a serviceable part.

After EASA AD 2022-0154 was issued, new occurrences were reported on additional serial-numbered and part-numbered TR damper bracket assemblies that were not included in the initial batch of affected parts and it was determined that additional TR damper bracket assemblies must also be inspected. Consequently, EASA issued EASA AD 2022-0205, dated October 4, 2022 (EASA AD 2022-0205), to retain the requirements of EASA AD 2022-0154, which is superseded, expand the definition of "affected part," and require the DVIs for all affected parts. See EASA AD 2022-0205 for additional background information.

The FAA is proposing this AD to detect and address corrosion or cracks on the TR damper bracket assembly. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in an in-flight TR blade loss, unbalance or damage to the tail or other parts of the helicopter, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

EASA AD 2022-0205 requires repetitive DVIs of the TR damper bracket assembly for cracks and corrosion. Depending on the results of these inspections, EASA AD 2022-0205 requires removing any corrosion, replacing any cracked part or a part which the corrosion cannot be removed with a serviceable part, and reporting any discrepancies to Leonardo. EASA AD 2022-0205 allows installing an affected part on any helicopter, provided it is a serviceable part, which is an affected part that is new. EASA AD 2022-0205 also allows installing any TR damper bracket assembly that is not an affected part as defined within.

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** section.

Other Related Service Information

The FAA also reviewed Leonardo Helicopters Alert Service Bulletin No. 139-724, Revision B, dated September 29, 2022. This service information specifies procedures for inspecting and if necessary, replacing certain part-numbered and serial-numbered TR damper bracket assemblies.

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 about the unsafe condition described in its AD. The FAA is proposing this AD after evaluating all known relevant information and determining that the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop on other helicopters of the same type designs.

Proposed AD Requirements in This NPRM

This proposed AD would require accomplishing the actions specified in EASA AD 2022-0205, described previously, as incorporated by reference, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this proposed AD and except as discussed under "Differences Between this Proposed AD and EASA AD 2022-0205."

Explanation of Required Compliance Information

In the FAA's ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of the AD process, the FAA developed a process to use some civil aviation authority (CAA) ADs as the primary source of information for compliance with requirements for corresponding FAA ADs. The FAA has been coordinating this process with manufacturers and CAAs. As a result, the FAA proposes to incorporate EASA AD 2022-0205 by reference in the FAA final rule. This proposed AD would, therefore, require compliance with EASA AD 2022-0205 in its entirety through that incorporation, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this proposed AD. Using common terms that are the same as the heading of a particular section in EASA AD 2022-0205 does not mean that operators need comply only with that section. For example, where the AD requirement refers to "all required actions and compliance times," compliance with this AD requirement is not limited to the section titled "Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s)" in EASA AD 2022-0205. Service information referenced in EASA AD 2022-0205 for compliance will be available at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2024-0997 after the FAA final rule is published.

Differences Between This Proposed AD and EASA AD 2022-0205

EASA AD 2022-0205 requires reporting certain information to Leonardo, whereas this proposed AD would not.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD, if adopted as proposed, would affect 126 helicopters of U.S. registry. Labor rates are estimated at \$85 per work-hour. Based on these numbers, the FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this proposed AD.

A DVI of the TR damper bracket assembly would take approximately 1 work-hour for an estimated cost of \$85 per helicopter and up to \$10,710 for the U.S. fleet, per inspection cycle.

If required, removing corrosion from the TR damper bracket assembly would take approximately 1 work-hour for an estimated cost of \$85 per helicopter.

If required, removing a TR damper bracket assembly and replacing it with a serviceable part would take approximately 8 work-hours and parts would cost approximately \$4,540 for an estimated cost of \$5,220 per TR damper bracket assembly.

The FAA has included all known costs in its cost estimate. According to the manufacturer, however, some of the costs of this proposed AD may be covered under warranty, thereby reducing the cost impact on affected operators.

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 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 this proposed regulation:

(1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866,

(2) Would not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and

(3) Would 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 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

■ 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:

Leonardo S.p.a.: Docket No. FAA–2024–0997; Project Identifier MCAI–2022–01306–R.

(a) Comments Due Date

The FAA must receive comments on this airworthiness directive (AD) by May 28, 2024.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to Leonardo S.p.a. Model AB139 and AW139 helicopters, certificated in any category.

(d) Subject

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code: 6400, Tail Rotor System.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by multiple reports of cracks found on tail rotor (TR) damper bracket assemblies. The FAA is issuing this AD to detect and address corrosion or cracks on the TR damper bracket assembly. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in an in-flight TR blade loss, unbalance or damage to the tail or other parts of the helicopter, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Requirements

Except as specified in paragraphs (h) and (i) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2022–0205, dated October 4, 2022 (EASA AD 2022–0205).

(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2022–0205

(1) Where EASA AD 2022–0205 requires compliance in terms of flight hours, this AD requires using hours time-in-service.

(2) Where EASA AD 2022–0205 refers to its effective date and August 15, 2022 (the effective date of EASA AD 2022–0154, dated August 1, 2022), this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(3) Where paragraph (4) of EASA AD 2022–0205 states to "replace the affected part with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of section 3 of the ASB;" for this AD, replace that text with "remove the affected part, as defined in EASA AD 2022–0205, from service and replace it with a serviceable part, as defined in EASA AD 2022–0205, in accordance with the instructions of section 3 of the ASB."

(4) Where the service information referenced in paragraph (4) of EASA AD 2022–0205 specifies to perform detailed visual inspections (DVIs) and "If no cracks are found, but suspected evidences of corrosion signs are found, gently polish the interested area," for the purposes of this AD, "suspected signs of corrosion" and "suspected evidences of corrosion signs" are signs of discoloration, pitting, flaking, or rust stains.

(5) Where the service information referenced in paragraph (4) of EASA AD 2022–0205 specifies to discard certain parts, this AD requires removing those parts from service.

(6) This AD does not require compliance with paragraph (6) of EASA AD 2022–0205.

(7) This AD does not adopt the "Remarks" section of EASA AD 2022–0205.

(i) No Reporting Requirement

Although the service information referenced in EASA AD 2022–0205 specifies to reporting certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not include that requirement.

(j) Credit for Previous Actions

This paragraph provides credit for the initial instance of the detailed visual inspections (DVIs) required by paragraph (g) of this AD, for TR damper bracket assemblies identified in Table 1 of EASA AD 2022–0205, if those actions were performed before the effective date of this AD using Leonardo Helicopters Alert Service Bulletin No. 139–724, Revision A, dated September 19, 2022.

(k) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in § 39.19. In accordance with § 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. If sending information directly to the manager of the International Validation Branch, mail it to the address identified in paragraph (l)(1) of this AD or email to: 9-AVS-AIR-730-AMOC@faa.gov. If mailing information, also submit information by email.

(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.

(l) Additional Information

(1) For more information about this AD, contact Sungmo Cho, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (781) 238-7241; email: Sungmo.D.Cho@faa.gov.

(2) For Leonardo Helicopters service information identified in this AD that is not incorporated by reference, contact Leonardo S.p.A., Emanuele Bufano, Head of Airworthiness, Viale G. Agusta 520, 21017 C. Costa di Samarate (Va) Italy; phone (+39) 0331-225074; fax (+39) 0331-229046; or at customerportal.leonardocompany.com/en-US/.

(m) 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 2022-0205, dated October 4, 2022.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For EASA AD 2022-0205, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; internet easa.europa.eu. You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu.

(4) 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.

(5) You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locationsoremailfr.inspection@nara.gov.

Issued on April 2, 2024.

Victor Wicklund,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-07487 Filed 4-9-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 110

[Docket No. USCG-2023-0750]

RIN 1625-AA01

Establish Anchorage Ground; Crims Island Anchorage, Columbia River, Oregon and Washington

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is reopening the comment period for the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) entitled “Establish Anchorage Ground; Crims Island Anchorage, Columbia River, Oregon and Washington,” published on December 28, 2023. Reopening the comment period will allow additional time for the public to review and submit comments on the proposed rule.

DATES: The comment period for the notice of proposed rulemaking published on December 28, 2023 (88 FR 89648) is reopened. Comments and related material must be submitted to the docket by May 10, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG-2023-0750 using the Federal Decision Making Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. See the “Public Participation and Request for Comments” portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for further instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about this document call or email LT Carlie Gilligan, Sector Columbia River Waterways Management Division, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 503-240-9319, email SCRWWM@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Participation and Request for Comments

The Coast Guard views public participation as essential to effective rulemaking, and will consider all comments and material received on this notice of proposed rulemaking during the comment period. Your comment can help shape the outcome of this rulemaking. If you submit a comment,

please include the docket number for this proposed rule, indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

Submitting comments. We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal Decision Making Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. To do so, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG-2023-0750 in the search box and click “Search.” Next, look for this document in the Search Results column, and click on it. Then click on the Comment option. If you cannot submit your material by using <https://www.regulations.gov>, call or email the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this proposed rule for alternate instructions.

Viewing material in docket. To view documents mentioned in this as being available in the docket, find the docket as described in the previous paragraph, and then select “Supporting & Related Material” in the Document Type column. Public comments will also be placed in our online docket and can be viewed by following instructions on the <https://www.regulations.gov> Frequently Asked Questions web page. We review all comments received, but we will only post comments that address the topic of the document. We may choose not to post off-topic, inappropriate, or duplicate comments that we receive.

Personal information. We accept anonymous comments. Comments we post to <https://www.regulations.gov> will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and submissions to the docket in response to this document, see DHS’s eRulemaking System of Records notice (85 FR 14226, March 11, 2020).

Public meeting. We are not planning to hold a public meeting but will consider doing so if we determine from public comments that a meeting would be helpful. We would issue a separate **Federal Register** notice to announce the date, time, and location of such a meeting.

Dated: April 4, 2024.

Charles E. Fosse,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2024-07579 Filed 4-9-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-04-P