

**2011-18-52 AGUSTA S.p.A (AGUSTA):** Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-055-AD.

Applicability: Agusta Model AB139 and AW139 helicopters, with tail rotor (T/R) blades, part number P/N 3G6410A00131 or P/N 4G6410A00131, certificated in any category.

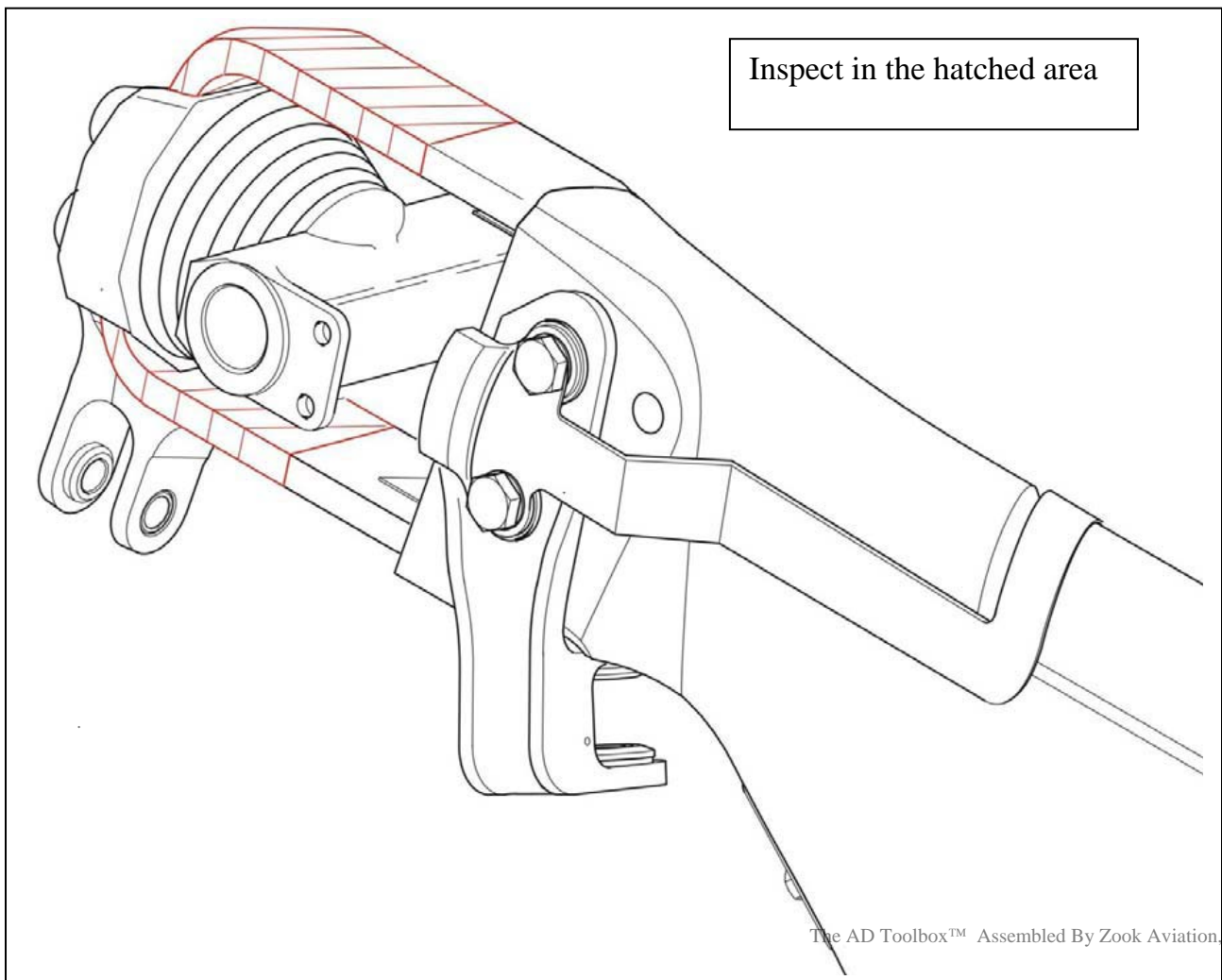
Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To detect and prevent a crack in a T/R blade, which could lead to failure of a T/R blade, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 5 hours time-in-service (TIS), establish a life limit of 600 hours TIS or 1,500 takeoff and landing cycles (cycles), whichever occurs first, on the affected T/R blades and update the helicopter's historical records. If a T/R blade's total number of cycles is unknown, determine the T/R blade cycles by multiplying the T/R blade's hours TIS by 4.

(b) For a T/R blade that, on the effective date of this AD, has already exceeded 600 hours TIS or 1,500 cycles, within 5 hours TIS replace the T/R blade with an airworthy T/R blade.

(c) Within 25 hours TIS, and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 25 hours TIS, visually inspect the T/R blade for a crack or damage that exceeds the limits of the applicable maintenance manual. Inspect in the area depicted in the following figure using a mirror, magnifying glass (5X or greater), and light source; or borescope.



(d) If there is a crack, or if there is damage that exceeds the limits of the applicable maintenance manual, before further flight, replace the T/R blade with an airworthy T/R blade.

(e) This AD revises the Airworthiness Limitations Section of the maintenance manual by reducing the life limit of the T/R blade to 600 hours TIS or 1,500 cycles.

(f) To request a different method of compliance or a different compliance time for this AD, follow the procedures in 14 CFR 39.19. Contact the Manager, Safety Management Group, FAA, ATTN: Jim Grigg, Manager, FAA, Safety Management Group, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; telephone: (817) 222-5126; fax: (817) 222-5961, for information about previously approved alternative methods of compliance.

(g) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with 14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199 to operate the helicopter to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished provided that there is minimal flight crew and there are no passengers.

(h) The Joint Aircraft System/Component (JASC) Code 6410 is: Tail rotor blade.

(i) Copies of the applicable service information may be obtained from Agusta Westland, Customer Support & Services, Via Per Tornaento 15, 21019 Somma Lombardo (VA) Italy, ATTN: Giovanni Cecchelli; telephone 39- 0331-711133; fax 39 0331 711180; or at <http://www.agustawestland.com/technical-bullettins>

(j) Emergency AD 2011-18-52 issued August 26, 2011, becomes effective upon receipt.

Note: The subject of this AD is addressed in European Aviation Safety Agency (Italy) Emergency AD No. 2011-0156-E, dated August 25, 2011.

For further information, contact: Jim Grigg, Manager, FAA, Safety Management Group, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; telephone: (817) 222-5126; fax: (817) 222-5961.