

**2012-02-13 Eurocopter France:** Amendment 39-16936; Docket No. FAA-2012-0086; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-045-AD.

(a) Applicability. This AD applies to Model EC130B4 helicopters that do not have Eurocopter Modification (MOD) 073880 incorporated, all serial numbers, certificated in any category.

(b) Unsafe Condition. This AD defines the unsafe condition as cracks on the tailboom/Fenestron junction frame. This condition could result in structural failure of the tailboom, detachment of the Fenestron, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

(c) Effective Date. This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective February 22, 2012.

(d) Compliance. You are responsible for performing each action required by this AD within the specified compliance time unless accomplished previously.

(e) Corrective Actions.

(1) Within 10 hours time-in-service (TIS):

(i) Inspect the right hand side of the tailboom/Fenestron junction frame for cracks in the web from the inside as depicted in Details C and D of Figure 2 of Eurocopter Emergency Alert Service Bulletin 53A019, dated June 14, 2011 (EASB).

(ii) Strip the paint on the areas of the right hand side of the tailboom/Fenestron junction frame depicted in Detail E of Figure 3 of the EASB. Apply a coat of primer to the stripped area. Apply varnish to the stripped area.

(iii) Inspect the stripped area of the frame for cracks from the outside.

(2) Thereafter at intervals not to exceed 50 hours TIS, inspect the frame by following the inspection requirements of paragraphs (1)(i) and (1)(iii) of this AD.

(3) If there is a crack, before further flight, replace the tailboom with an airworthy tailboom that incorporates Eurocopter MOD 073880.

(4) After the effective date of this AD, do not install a tailboom that does not incorporate Eurocopter MOD 073880 on any helicopter.

(f) Special flight permits. Special flight permits may be issued for up to 2 hours TIS to ferry the helicopter to a repair facility if the crack does not extend into the web of the tailboom/Fenestron junction frame.

(g) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs).

(1) The Manager, Safety Management Group, FAA, may approve AMOCs for this AD. Send your proposal to: Jim Grigg, Manager, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Safety Management Group, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76137, telephone (817) 222-5126, email: jim.grigg@faa.gov.

(2) For operations conducted under a Part 119 operating certificate or under Part 91, Subpart K, we suggest 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) Subject. Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code: 5302: Rotorcraft Tail Boom.

(i) Additional Information. The subject of this AD is addressed in European Aviation Safety Agency (France) AD No. 2011-0116, dated July 6, 2011.

(j) Material Incorporated by Reference. You must use the specified portions of Eurocopter Emergency Alert Service Bulletin 53A019, dated June 14, 2011, to do the specified actions required by this AD.

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of this service information under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) For service information identified in this AD, contact American Eurocopter Corporation, 2701 N. Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75052, telephone (972) 641-0000 or (800) 232-0323, fax (972) 641-3775, or at <http://www.eurocopter.com/techpub>.

(3) You may review copies of the referenced service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth Texas 76137 or at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call (202) 741-6030, or go to: [http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/code\\_of\\_federal\\_regulations/ibr\\_locations.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html).