

2014-02-08 Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters (Type Certificate currently held by AgustaWestland S.p.A.) (Agusta): Amendment 39-17736; Docket No. FAA-2013-0478; Directorate Identifier 2012-SW-092-AD.

(a) Applicability

This AD applies to Agusta Model A109C, A109S, and A109K2 helicopters, all serial numbers; Model A109E helicopters, serial number (S/N) 11002 through 11807 except S/N 11796; and Model AW109SP helicopters, S/N 22202 through 22278, except S/N 22239, 22264, 22266, 22272, 22273, 22275, and 22277, certificated in any category.

(b) Unsafe Condition

This AD defines the unsafe condition as a missing or broken lock wire securing the tail rotor (T/R) duplex bearing locking nut (locking nut). This condition could result in loosening of the locking nut, failure of the T/R, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

(c) Effective Date

This AD becomes effective March 7, 2014.

(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

(1) Within 5 hours time-in-service (TIS), inspect each lock wire securing the T/R locking nut to the housing.

(i) If only one lock wire is installed and it is not damaged, before further flight, install a second lock wire.

(ii) If one or both lock wires are installed, and either one or both are damaged, before further flight, remove and reassemble the housing and slider group of the T/R rotating controls.

(2) Within 25 hours TIS from the inspection required by paragraph (e)(1) of this AD, and thereafter at intervals not exceeding 25 hours TIS, inspect the lock wires which secure the T/R locking nut to the housing. If either lock wire is missing or damaged, before further flight, remove and reassemble the housing and slider group of the T/R rotating controls.

(3) Within 100 hours TIS, remove and reassemble the housing and slider group of the T/R rotating controls.

(4) Removing and reassembling the housing and slider group of the T/R rotating controls as required by paragraph (e)(1)(ii), (e)(2), or (e)(3) is terminating action for this AD.

(f) Special Flight Permit

Special flight permits are prohibited.

(g) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Safety Management Group, FAA, may approve AMOCs for this AD. Send your proposal to: Robert Grant, Aviation Safety Engineer, Safety Management Group, FAA, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; telephone 817-222-5110; email robert.grant@faa.gov.

(2) For operations conducted under a 14 CFR part 119 operating certificate or under 14 CFR 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) Additional Information

(1) Agusta Bollettino Tecnico (BT) No. 109-134 for Model A109C helicopters, BT No. 109EP-121 for Model A109E helicopters, BT No. 109S-48 for Model A109S helicopters, BT No. 109K-54 for Model A109K2 helicopters, and BT No. 109SP-051 for Model AW109SP helicopters, all dated September 21, 2012, which are not incorporated by reference, contain additional information about the subject of this AD. For service information identified in this AD, contact Agusta Westland, Customer Support & Services, Via Per Tornavento 15, 21019 Somma Lombardo (VA) Italy, ATTN: Giovanni Cecchelli; telephone 39-0331-711133; fax 39 0331 711180; or at <http://www.agustawestland.com/technical-bulletins>. You may review the referenced service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137.

(2) The subject of this AD is addressed in European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD No. 2012-0195-E, dated September 24, 2012, and corrected September 25, 2012. You may view the EASA AD on the internet in the Docket No. FAA-2013-0478 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

(i) Subject

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