



DATE: March 3, 2015

AD #: 2015-05-51

This emergency airworthiness directive (EAD) 2015-05-51 is sent to owners and operators of certain Agusta S.p.A. (Agusta) Model A109A and A109A II helicopters.

Background

This EAD is prompted by an error in the Illustrated Parts Catalog (IPC) that incorrectly identifies applicability of a certain part-numbered blade on Agusta Model A109A and A109A II helicopters. This EAD requires replacing an affected blade with the approved part-numbered blade for the applicable model. This condition, if not corrected, could result in blade failure and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

Discussion

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA EAD No. 2015-0025-E, dated February 18, 2015, to correct an unsafe condition for certain serial-numbered AgustaWestland S.p.A. Model A109A and Model A109A II helicopters. EASA advises of the installation of blade part number (P/N) 109-0103-01-7 on Model A109A II helicopters. In a subsequent investigation, it was determined that blade P/N 109-0103-01-7 is eligible for installation on Model A109A helicopters up to serial number (S/N) 7153 only. EASA states that for Model A109A and A109A II helicopters, the current IPC incorrectly allows installing blade P/N 109-0103-01-7 on all helicopters. The EASA EAD requires identifying each blade P/N 109-0103-01-7 and replacing it with P/N 109-0103-01-9 or P/N 109-0103-01-115. The EASA EAD also prohibits installing blade P/N 109-0103-01-7 on Model A109A helicopters from S/N 7154 through 7255 inclusive and on all Model A109A II helicopters.

FAA's Determination

These helicopters have been approved by the aviation authority of Italy and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to our bilateral agreement with Italy, EASA, its technical representative, has notified us of the unsafe condition described in the EASA EAD. We are issuing this EAD because we evaluated all information provided by EASA and determined the unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other helicopters of these same type designs.

Related Service Information

AgustaWestland Alert Bollettino Tecnico No. 109-142, dated February 17, 2015, specifies determining whether the affected part-numbered blade is installed and, if installed, replacing it with blade P/N 109-0103-01-9 or P/N 109-0103-01-115. Also, the service information states that AgustaWestland has updated the applicable A109A/AII IPC to give the correct information about the applicable configuration.

EAD Requirements

This EAD requires, before further flight, replacing blade P/N 109-0103-01-7 with blade P/N 109-0103-01-9 or 109-0103-01-115.

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.

We are 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.

Adoption of the Emergency Airworthiness Directive (EAD)

We are issuing this EAD under 49 U.S.C. Sections 106(g), 40113, and 44701 according to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator

2015-05-51 Agusta S.p.A.: Directorate Identifier 2015-SW-005-AD.

(a) Applicability

This EAD applies to Model A109A helicopters, serial numbers (S/N) 7154 through 7255, and all Model A109A II helicopters, with a main rotor blade (blade) part number (P/N) 109-0103-01-7 installed, certificated in any category.

(b) Unsafe Condition

This EAD defines the unsafe condition as the installation of a blade that does not meet type design. This condition could result in blade failure and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

(c) Effective Date

This EAD is effective upon receipt.

(d) Compliance

You are responsible for performing each action required by this EAD within the specified compliance time unless it has already been accomplished prior to that time.

(e) Required Actions

Before further flight, replace each blade with blade P/N 109-0103-01-9 or 109-0103-01-115.

(f) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Safety Management Group, FAA, may approve AMOCs for this EAD. Send your proposal to: Martin Crane, Aviation Safety Engineer, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA, 2601

Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; telephone (817) 222 5110; email
Martin.R.Crane@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 EAD through an AMOC.

(g) Additional Information

(1) For further information contact: Martin Crane, Aviation Safety Engineer, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; telephone (817) 222 5110; email Martin.R.Crane@faa.gov.

(2) For a copy of the service information referenced in this AD, contact: AgustaWestland, Product Support Engineering, Via del Gregge, 100, 21015 Lonate Pozzolo (VA) Italy, ATTN: Maurizio D'Angelo; telephone 39-0331-664757; fax 39-0331-664680; or at <http://www.agustawestland.com/technical-bulletins>.

(3) The subject of this EAD is addressed in European Aviation Safety Agency EAD No. 2015-0025-E, dated February 18, 2015.

(h) Subject

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code: 6210 Main Rotor Blades.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on March 3, 2015.

Bruce E. Cain
Acting Directorate Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.