

BILLING CODE 4910-13-C

**What About Alternative Methods of Compliance?**

(f) You may request a different method of compliance or a different compliance time for this AD by following the procedures in 14 CFR 39.13. Send your request to the Manager, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA. For information on any already approved alternative methods of compliance, contact Chris B. Morgan, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, 1801 Airport Road, Room 100, Mid-Continent Airport, Wichita, Kansas 67209; telephone: (316) 946-4154; facsimile: (316) 946-4107.

**Is There Material Incorporated by Reference?**

(g) You must do the actions required by this AD per Raytheon Safety Communiqué No. 234, dated September 2003; and either Raytheon Temporary Revision No. 27-5 to the Model 1900/1900C Airliner Maintenance Manual: Revised ELEVATOR TRIM OPERATIONAL CHECK, or Raytheon Temporary Revision No. 27-9 to the Model 1900D Airliner Maintenance Manual: Added MANUAL ELEVATOR TRIM OPERATIONAL CHECK, both dated September 12, 2003. The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of this service bulletin in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Raytheon Aircraft Company, 9709 E. Central, Wichita, Kansas 67201-0085; telephone: (800) 429-5372 or (316) 676-3140. You may review copies at FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 2, 2003.

**Dorenda D. Baker,**

*Acting Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

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BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

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

[Docket No. 2003-SW-08-AD; Amendment 39-13329; AD 2003-20-11]

RIN 2120-AA64

**Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Model EC135 P1, P2, T1, and T2 Helicopters**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment supersedes an existing airworthiness directive (AD) for Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH (ECD) Model EC135 P1 and EC135 T1 helicopters. That AD currently requires

adding the AD or a statement to the Rotorcraft Flight Manual (RFM) informing the pilot to reduce power and land as soon as practicable if a thump-like sound followed by unusual vibration occurs during flight. That AD also requires visually inspecting the main rotor drive torque strut assembly (strut) for a crack or a break, recording the inspections in the historical or equivalent record, and re-marking and relocating the strut, as appropriate, and replacing any unairworthy strut with an airworthy strut. Also, that AD establishes life limits for certain struts and revises the life limit for other struts. This amendment retains the same requirements but adds the ECD Model EC135 P2 and EC135 T2 helicopters to the applicability and requires replacing certain life-limited struts with titanium struts. This amendment is prompted by the manufacture of a titanium strut that provides a permanent correction to the unsafe condition that led to limiting the life of other struts that have failed. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent failure of a strut and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

**DATES:** Effective November 14, 2003.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of November 14, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from American Eurocopter Corporation, 2701 Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-4005, telephone (972) 641-3460, fax (972) 641-3527. This information may be examined at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Richard Monschke, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Rotorcraft Standards Staff, Fort Worth, Texas 76193-0110, telephone (817) 222-5116, fax (817) 222-5961.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A proposal to amend 14 CFR part 39 by superseding AD 2001-18-13, Amendment 39-12439 (66 FR 47878, September 14, 2001), for the specified model helicopters was published in the **Federal Register** on June 5, 2003 (68 FR 33663). The action proposed retaining the requirements to add the AD or a statement to the Rotorcraft Flight Manual (RFM) informing the pilot to reduce power and land as soon as practicable if a thump-like sound

followed by unusual vibration occurs during flight. Also, the action proposed retaining the requirements to visually inspect each strut for a crack or a break; to record the inspections in the historical or equivalent record; to remark and relocate the strut, as appropriate; to replace any unairworthy strut with an airworthy strut; and to establish or revise life limits for certain struts. In addition to the requirements in the current AD, that action proposed adding the ECD Model EC135 P2 and EC135 T2 helicopters to the applicability and replacing certain life-limited struts with titanium struts.

The Luftfahrt-Bundesamt (LBA), the airworthiness authority for the Federal Republic of Germany, advises that struts, (P/N) L633M1001 103 and L633M1001 105, should not be used beyond December 31, 2004. The LBA advises replacing those struts with torque struts, P/N L633M1001 104, after January 1, 2005.

ECD has issued Alert Service Bulletin EC135-63A-002, Revision 2, dated June 26, 2002 (ASB), which specifies inspecting for a crack, marking strut locations and serial numbers, and transferring the location side of the torque struts or replacing each strut, P/N L633M1001 103 or L633M10001 105, with a torque strut, P/N L633M1001 104, that is anodized and not coated with paint, which have no life limit. The LBA classified this ASB as mandatory and issued AD No. 2001-107/2, dated September 19, 2002, to ensure the continued airworthiness of these helicopters in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. No comments were received on the proposal or the FAA's determination of the cost to the public. The FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule as proposed.

On July 10, 2002, the FAA issued a new version of 14 CFR part 39 (67 FR 47997, July 22, 2002), which governs FAA's AD system. This regulation now includes material that relates to special flight permits, alternative methods of compliance, and altered products. This material previously was included in each individual AD. Since this material is included in 14 CFR part 39, we have not included it in this AD action.

The FAA estimates that this AD will affect 50 helicopters of U.S. registry. The AD will take approximately ½ work hour for the flashlight and mirror inspection; 2.5 work hours to remark, relocate, and inspect with a magnifying glass; and 1 hour to replace both struts.