

The FAA estimates that this AD will affect 45 helicopters of U.S. registry and the actions will take approximately 3 work hours per helicopter to accomplish at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Two additional work hours will be required to replace a hose. Required parts will cost approximately:

- \$229 for the air vent hose, part number (P/N) 365A55-3044-07 (3 each estimated);
- \$139 for the air vent hose, P/N 365A55-3044-09 (3 each estimated);
- \$1 for the spacer, P/N E0688-02 (2 each required per helicopter);
- \$1 for the screw, P/N 22256BC040012L (4 each per helicopter);
- \$1 for the screw, P/N 22256BC050012L (2 each per helicopter); and
- \$.50 for the clamp, P/N E0043-1C0 (2 each per helicopter).

Based on these figures, we estimate the total cost impact of the AD on U.S. operators would be \$9,609, assuming that six air vent hoses (3 of each kind) will need to be replaced and 2 spacers, 6 screws, and 2 clamps will be replaced in the entire fleet.

The regulations adopted herein will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, it is determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this action (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and (3) will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. A final evaluation has been prepared for this action and it is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

#### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

#### Adoption of the Amendment

■ Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) as follows:

### PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

#### § 39.13 [Amended]

■ 2. Section 39.13 is amended by adding a new airworthiness directive to read as follows:

#### 2003-22-15 Eurocopter France:

Amendment 39-13363. Docket No. 2003-SW-09-AD.

**Applicability:** Model SA-365N, N1, AS-365N2, and AS 365 N3 helicopters, certificated in any category.

**Compliance:** Within the next 50 hours time-in-service (TIS) or 1 month, whichever occurs first, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent fuel leakage, toxic fumes inside the cabin creating a fire hazard that could lead to a fire and smoke in the cabin, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) In accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 2.B.2. of Eurocopter Alert Telex No. 28.00.31, dated January 14, 2003 (Alert Telex):

(1) Inspect the fuel air vent hose (air vent hose) on the right-hand (RH) and left-hand (LH) side of the helicopter for chafing and fuel leakage in the interference areas.

(i) Replace any leaking air vent hose before further flight, and

(ii) Modify any non-leaking air vent hose by wrapping it with adhesive tape before further flight.

(2) For any air vent hose with chafing damage, replace the air vent hose at the next 500-hour TIS inspection.

(b) Inspect the length of each attachment screw of the latch support on the RH and LH sides and, if the length exceeds 12 mm, replace the attachment screw in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 2.B.3. of the Alert Telex.

(c) Install spacers for the air vent hose on the RH side between the attachment screws of the latch support and the air vent hose in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 2.B.4. of the Alert Telex.

(d) Remove one of the tyrap clamp supports from the LH side that secures the air vent hose to the 9° frame at the latch support in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 2.B.5. of the Alert Telex.

(e) Install latch supports on the RH and LH sides, and the covering panels on the 9° frame in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 2.B.6. of the Alert Telex.

(f) Inspect the doors for correct closing, and if necessary, adjust the position of the microswitches (if installed) and the latches in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 2.B.6. of the Alert Telex.

(g) To request a different method of compliance or a different compliance time for this AD, follow the procedures in 14 CFR 39.19. Send the proposal to the Manager, Safety Management Group, FAA. Contact the

Safety Management Group for information about previously approved alternative methods of compliance.

(h) The previously stated actions shall be done in accordance with Eurocopter Alert Telex No. 28.00.31, dated January 14, 2003. The Director of the Federal Register approved this incorporation by reference in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from American Eurocopter Corporation, 2701 Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-4005, telephone (972) 641-3460, fax (972) 641-3527. Copies may be inspected 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.

(i) This amendment becomes effective on January 5, 2004.

**Note:** The subject of this AD is addressed in Direction Generale De L'Aviation Civile (France) AD 2003-028(A), dated February 5, 2003.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on October 31, 2003.

**Kim Smith,**

*Acting Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

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### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2003-NM-08-AD; Amendment 39-13374; AD 2003-24-05]

**RIN 2120-AA64**

#### Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-31 and DC-9-32 Airplanes

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

**ACTION:** Final rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-31 and DC-9-32 airplanes. This action requires installation of ceiling panels and a protective pad in the tailcone emergency exit passageway. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent people on board the airplane from striking their heads on exposed metal frames in the tailcone area, which could cause injury and delay or impede their evacuation during an emergency. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

**DATES:** Effective December 16, 2003.