European Union Aviation Safety Agency

Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2026-0165

Issued: 18 August 2026

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 129 of that Regulation.

This AD is issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I Part M.A.301, or Annex Vb Part ML.A.301, as applicable, the continuing airworthiness of an aircraft shall be ensured by accomplishing any applicable ADs. Consequently, no person may operate an aircraft to which an AD applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that AD, unless otherwise specified by the Agency [Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I Part M.A.303, or Annex Vb Part ML.A.303, as applicable] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:

LEONARDO S.p.A.

Type/Model designation(s):

AB139 and AW139 helicopters

Effective Date: 01 September 2026

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.006

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 78 – Engine Exhaust – Nozzle Exhaust Duct Clamp Assembly – Inspection

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Manufacturer(s):

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, formerly Finmeccanica S.p.A, AgustaWestland S.p.A., Agusta S.p.A.; and AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corporation, formerly Agusta Aerospace Corporation

Applicability:

AB139 and AW139 helicopters, serial number (s/n) from 31005 to 31157 inclusive (except s/n 31007), from 31201 to 31398 inclusive, from 41001 to 41023 inclusive, and from 41201 to 41293 inclusive.

Definitions:

For the purpose of this AD, the following definitions apply:

The ASB: Leonardo Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 139-862.

Affected part: Clamp assemblies Part Number (P/N) 3P7115A10751 or P/N BAS238-6-1300.

Serviceable part: An affected part which is new (never previously installed) or which passed the inspection in accordance with the instructions of the ASB (no damage or cracks).

Groups: Group 1 helicopters are those that have an affected part installed. Group 2 helicopters are those that do not have an affected part installed.

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Reason:

An occurrence was reported of a nozzle exhaust duct clamp that broke loose from its seating on the engine nozzle duct and came to rest on the tail rotor drive shaft causing damage to the tail rotor drive shaft itself.
The root cause of the clamp failure is still under investigation.

This condition, if not detected or corrected, could lead to damage of the tail rotor shaft, possibly resulting in loss of control of the helicopter around yaw axis.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Leonardo issued the ASB to provide repetitive inspection instructions.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive inspections of the affected parts, and, depending on findings, replacement. This AD also provides conditions for installations for replacement parts.

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):

Required as indicated by this AD, unless the action(s) required by this AD have been already accomplished:

Repetitive Inspections:

(1) For Group 1 helicopters: Within 25 flight hours (FH) after the effective date of this AD and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 300 FH, inspect each affected part in accordance with the instructions of Section 3 of the ASB.

Corrective Action(s):

(2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, damages or cracks are detected on an affected part, as defined in the ASB, before next flight, replace that affected part with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of Section 3 of the ASB.

Terminating Action(s):

(3) Replacement of an affected part of a helicopter with a serviceable part, as defined in this AD, does not constitute terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that helicopter.

Reporting:

(4) Within 10 days after accomplishment of any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, report the inspection results (including no findings) to Leonardo. This can be accomplished in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Part(s) Installation:

(5) For Group 1 and Group 2 helicopters: From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install an affected part on a helicopter, provided that it is a serviceable part.

Ref. Publications:

Leonardo ASB 139-862 original issue dated 05 August 2026.

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Remarks:

1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.

2. Based on the required actions and the compliance time, EASA have decided to issue a Final AD with Request for Comments, postponing the public consultation process until after publication. All interested persons may send their comments, referencing the AD Number, to the E-mail address specified in below Remark 3, prior to 15 September 2026. Only if any comment is received during the consultation period, a Comment Response Document will be published in the EASA Safety Publications Tool, in a compressed ('zipped') file, attached to the record for this AD.

3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.

4. Information about any failures, malfunctions, defects or other occurrences, which may be similar to the unsafe condition addressed by this AD, and which may occur, or have occurred on a product, part or appliance not affected by this AD, can be reported to the EU aviation safety reporting system. This may include reporting on the same or similar components, other than those covered by the design to which this AD applies, if the same unsafe condition can exist or may develop on an aircraft with those components installed. Such components may be installed under an FAA Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) or other modification.

5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, E-mail: engineering.support.lhd@leonardocompany.com.

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