



## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

#### **14 CFR Part 39**

**[Docket No. FAA-2025-5034; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-00951-R]**

**RIN 2120-AA64**

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Helicopters Model AS332C, AS332C1, AS332L, AS332L1, and AS332L2 helicopters. This proposed AD was prompted by a report of rupture of the scissors link of the rotating swashplate assembly due to a seized ball joint-cups assembly. This proposed AD would require replacing the rotor shaft assembly, modifying the rotating swashplate assembly to replace each of the three ball joint-cups assemblies with one-piece self-lubricated spherical bearings, and modifying the scissors hinges and swashplate trunnions on the main rotor, as applicable, and applying an anti-corrosion agent, if applicable. This proposed AD would prohibit installing a main rotor hub (MRH) assembly or rotor shaft assembly on a helicopter unless certain requirements are met. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** The FAA must receive comments on this NPRM by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- Fax: (202) 493-2251.

- Mail: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

- Hand Delivery: Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*AD Docket:* You may examine the AD docket at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2025-5034; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this NPRM, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

*Material Incorporated by Reference:*

- For European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) material identified in this proposed AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; phone: +49 221 8999 000; email: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu); website: [easa.europa.eu](http://easa.europa.eu). You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at [ad.easa.europa.eu](http://ad.easa.europa.eu).

- You may view this material at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222-5110.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Adam Hein, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (316) 946-4116; email: [adam.hein@faa.gov](mailto:adam.hein@faa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Comments Invited**

The FAA invites you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposal. Send your comments using a method listed under the ADDRESSES

section. Include “Docket No. FAA-2025-5034; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-00951-R” at the beginning of your comments. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this proposal because of those comments.

Except for Confidential Business Information (CBI) as described in the following paragraph, and other information as described in 14 CFR 11.35, the FAA will post all comments received, without change, to regulations.gov, including any personal information you provide. The agency will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this NPRM.

### **Confidential Business Information**

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this NPRM contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this NPRM, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission containing CBI as “PROPIN.” The FAA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public docket of this NPRM. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Adam Hein, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590. Any commentary that the FAA receives which is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

### **Background**

EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, issued EASA AD 2024-0168, dated August 22, 2024 (EASA AD 2024-0168), to

correct an unsafe condition on Airbus Helicopters Model AS 332 C, AS 332 C1, AS 332 L, AS 332 L1, and AS 332 L2 helicopters. The MCAI states that an occurrence was reported of rupture of the scissors link of the rotating swashplate assembly resulting from a seized ball joint-cups assembly. Subsequent investigation revealed the following probable causes: the cups and ball joint that are normally paired were unpaired or mixed during an overhaul; and the cups and ball joint assembly had not been properly lubricated during overhaul. In addition, the cups and the ball joint are made of tungsten carbide, whose failure mode can cause a sudden seizure of the assembly. This condition, if not addressed, could lead to loss of connection between rotor shaft and rotating swashplate and consequent loss of control of the helicopter.

EASA AD 2024-0168 specified a modification to replace the ball joint-cups assembly with a one-piece self-lubricated spherical bearing and specified modification instructions for in-service helicopters. EASA then superseded EASA AD 2024-0168 and issued EASA AD 2025-0116, dated May 19, 2025 (EASA AD 2025-0116) (also referred to as the MCAI). The MCAI states that since EASA AD 2024-0168 was issued, it was identified that the original service information did not provide instructions to apply anti-corrosion agent on the parts during installation, and Airbus Helicopters revised the service information to address that omission. The MCAI partially retains the requirements of EASA AD 2024-0168 and specifies additional work.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2025-5034.

### **Material Incorporated by Reference Under 1 CFR Part 51**

The FAA reviewed EASA AD 2025-0116, which specifies procedures for replacing the rotor shaft assembly, modifying the rotating swashplate assembly, or replacing the MRH assembly as an alternative action for certain helicopters, as applicable. EASA AD 2025-0116 specifies procedures for certain helicopters to

incorporate modification 0743046 either before or concurrently with the modification of the rotating swashplate assembly. EASA AD 2025-0116 also specifies procedures for applying anti-corrosion agent on the parts, as applicable. EASA AD 2025-0116 prohibits installing a MRH assembly or a rotor shaft assembly unless it is a post-mod 0728849 configuration.

This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section.

### **FAA's Determination**

These products have been approved by the civil aviation authority of another country and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with this State of Design Authority, that authority has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI referenced above. The FAA is issuing this NPRM after determining that the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.

### **Proposed AD Requirements in this NPRM**

This proposed AD would require Group 1 helicopters (as defined in the MCAI) to replace the rotor shaft assembly, Group 2 helicopters (as defined in the MCAI) to modify the rotating swashplate assembly to replace each of the three ball joint-cups assemblies with one-piece self-lubricated spherical bearings or replace the MRH assembly with an MRH assembly in post-mod 0728849 and post-mod 0743046 configurations, and AS332C and AS332L helicopters to modify the scissors hinges and swashplate trunnions on the main rotor, as applicable. This proposed AD would also require Group 3 helicopters (as defined in the MCAI) to apply an anti-corrosion agent, if applicable. This proposed AD would prohibit installing a main rotor hub (MRH) assembly or rotor shaft assembly on a helicopter unless certain requirements are met.

## Explanation of Required Compliance Information

In the FAA's ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of the AD process, the FAA developed a process to use some civil aviation authority (CAA) ADs as the primary source of information for compliance with requirements for corresponding FAA ADs. The FAA has been coordinating this process with manufacturers and CAAs. As a result, the FAA incorporates EASA AD 2025-0116 by reference in the FAA final rule. This proposed AD would, therefore, require compliance with EASA AD 2025-0116 in its entirety through that incorporation, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this proposed AD. Using common terms that are the same as the heading of a particular section in EASA AD 2025-0116 does not mean that operators need comply only with that section. For example, where the AD requirement refers to “all required actions and compliance times,” compliance with this AD requirement is not limited to the section titled “Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s)” in EASA AD 2025-0116. Material referenced in EASA AD 2025-0116 for compliance will be available at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA-2025-5034 after the FAA final rule is published.

## Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD, if adopted as proposed, would affect 12 helicopters of U.S. registry.

The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this proposed AD:

### Estimated costs

Action	Labor Cost	Parts Cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
Replace three ball joint-cups assemblies	3 work-hours x \$85 per hour = \$255	\$9,861	\$10,116	\$121,392
Apply anti-corrosion agent	3 work-hours x \$85 per hour = \$255	\$0	\$0	Up to \$3,060

The FAA has received no definitive data on which to base the cost estimates for

replacing the rotor shaft assembly with a rotor shaft assembly that has incorporated modifications 0743714 and 0728849, modifying the rotating swashplate assembly to incorporate modification 0743046, or for the optional action of replacing the MRH assembly with an MRH assembly that has incorporated modifications 0728849 and 0743046 specified in this proposed AD.

The FAA has included all known costs in its cost estimate. According to the manufacturer, however, some of the costs of this proposed AD may be covered under warranty, thereby reducing the cost impact on affected operators.

### **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.

The FAA is 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.

### **Regulatory Findings**

The FAA determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD would 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.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify this proposed regulation:

(1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866,

(2) Would not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and

(3) Would not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

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

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

**The Proposed Amendment**

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 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. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

**Airbus Helicopters:** Docket No. FAA-2025-5034; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-00951-R.

**(a) Comments Due Date**

The FAA must receive comments on this airworthiness directive (AD) by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**(b) Affected ADs**

None.

**(c) Applicability**

This AD applies to Airbus Helicopters Model AS332C, AS332C1, AS332L, AS332L1, and AS332L2 helicopters, certificated in any category.

**(d) Subject**

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code 6230, Main Rotor Mast/Swashplate.

**(e) Unsafe Condition**

This AD was prompted by a report of the rupture of the scissors link of the rotating swashplate assembly due to a seized ball joint-cups assembly. The FAA is issuing this AD to prevent the ball joint-cups assembly from seizing. This condition, if not addressed, could lead to loss of connection between rotor shaft and rotating swashplate and consequent loss of control of the helicopter.

**(f) Compliance**

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

**(g) Required Actions**

Except as specified in paragraphs (h) and (i) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency AD 2025-0116, dated May 19, 2025 (EASA AD 2025-0116).

**(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2025-0116**

(1) Where EASA AD 2025-0116 refers to September 5, 2024 (the effective date of EASA AD 2024-0168), this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) Where EASA AD 2025-0116 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(3) Where paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2025-0116 refers to “modify that helicopter in accordance with the instructions of the Airbus Helicopter SB 62.00.05”, this AD replaces that text with “modify that helicopter in accordance with the instructions of the Societe Nationale Industrielle Aerospatiale Service Bulletin No. 62.05, Revision 2”.

(4) This AD does not adopt the “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2025-0116.

**(i) No Reporting Requirement**

Although the material referenced in EASA AD 2025-0116 specifies to submit certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not require that action.

**(j) Special Flight Permits**

Special flight permits are prohibited.

**(k) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)**

(1) The Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the International Validation Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (1) of this AD and email to: AMOC@faa.gov.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

**(l) Additional Information**

For more information about this AD, contact Adam Hein, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (316) 946-4116; email: adam.hein@faa.gov.

**(m) Material Incorporated by Reference**

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the material listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this material as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2025-0116, dated May 19, 2025.

(ii) Reserved

(3) For EASA material identified in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; phone: +49 221 8999 000; email: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu); website: [easa.europa.eu](http://easa.europa.eu). You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at [ad.easa.europa.eu](http://ad.easa.europa.eu).

(4) You may view this material at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222-5110.

(5) You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit [www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations](http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations) or email [fr.inspection@nara.gov](mailto:fr.inspection@nara.gov).

Issued on November 24, 2025.

Steven W. Thompson,  
Acting Deputy Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division,  
Aircraft Certification Service.  
[FR Doc. 2025-21437 Filed: 11/26/2025 8:45 am; Publication Date: 11/28/2025]