



## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

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

**[Docket No. FAA-2026-0746; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-01628-R; Amendment  
39-23260; AD 2026-04-01]**

**RIN 2120-AA64**

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

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Helicopters Model SA330J helicopters. This AD was prompted by a report that the measured resistance value of the pyrotechnic cartridge of the engine fire extinguisher was out of tolerance. This AD requires repetitively inspecting the pyrotechnical cartridge and, depending on the results of the inspection, accomplishing corrective actions. This AD also prohibits an affected pyrotechnical cartridge from being installed on any helicopter unless certain requirements are met. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** This AD is effective [INSERT DATE 15 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of [INSERT DATE 15 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

The FAA must receive comments on this AD 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](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2026-0746; 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 final rule, 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 final rule, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu); internet [easa.europa.eu](https://easa.europa.eu). You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at [ad.easa.europa.eu](https://ad.easa.europa.eu).

- You may view this material at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222-5110. It is also available at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2026-0746.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** George Weir, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (817) 222-4045; email: george.a.weir@faa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Comments Invited**

The FAA invites you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this final rule. Send your comments using a method listed under ADDRESSES. Include “Docket No. FAA-2026-0746; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-01628-R” at the beginning of your comments. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the final rule, 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 final rule 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 final rule.

**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 AD 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 AD, 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 AD. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to George Weir, 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, has issued EASA AD 2025-0231, dated October 21, 2025 (EASA AD 2025-0231) (also referred to as the MCAI), to correct an unsafe condition on all Airbus Helicopters Model SA 330 J helicopters. The MCAI states that during a scheduled maintenance visit, the measured resistance value of the pyrotechnic cartridge of the engine fire extinguisher was found out of tolerance.

The FAA is issuing this AD to detect and address degradation of the pyrotechnic cartridge, which could result in failure of the cartridge to activate the engine fire extinguisher in the case of an engine fire with consequent damage to the helicopter or injury to occupants.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2026-0746.

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

The FAA reviewed EASA AD 2025-0231, which specifies procedures for repetitively inspecting pyrotechnical cartridge part number (P/N) 704A38710044 (Manufacturer P/N 12-12-11556-1) and P/N 704A38710045 (Manufacturer P/N 12-12-11555-1), and having a serial number identified in Table 1 - Affected Parts of EASA AD 2025-0231. Based on the inspection results, EASA AD 2025-0231 specifies procedures for replacing affected parts with serviceable parts. EASA AD 2025-0231 also prohibits installing an affected pyrotechnical cartridge on any helicopter unless certain requirements are met.

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 (CAA) 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 AD after determining that the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.

### **AD Requirements**

This AD requires accomplishing the actions specified in EASA AD 2025-0231, described previously, as incorporated by reference, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this AD.

### **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 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, EASA AD 2025-0231 is incorporated by reference in this AD. This AD requires compliance with EASA AD 2025-0231 in its entirety through that incorporation, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this AD. Using common terms that are the same as the heading of a particular section in EASA AD 2025-0231 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 2025-0231. Material required by EASA AD 2025-0231 for compliance will be available at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA-2026-0746 after this AD is published

### **Justification for Immediate Adoption and Determination of the Effective Date**

Section 553(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*) authorizes agencies to dispense with notice and comment procedures for rules when the agency, for “good cause,” finds that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” Under this section, an agency, upon finding good cause, may issue a final rule without providing notice and seeking comment prior to issuance. Further, section 553(d) of the APA authorizes agencies to make rules effective in less than thirty days, upon a finding of good cause.

An unsafe condition exists that requires the immediate adoption of this AD without providing an opportunity for public comments prior to adoption. The FAA has found that the risk to the flying public justifies forgoing notice and comment prior to adoption of this rule because failure of the pyrotechnic cartridge to activate the engine fire extinguisher in the case of an engine fire could result in damage to the helicopter or injury to occupants. Due to the undetermined level of degradation of the pyrotechnic cartridge on the affected helicopters, an inspection is necessary within 3 months after the effective date of this AD. This compliance time is shorter than the time necessary for the public to comment and for publication of the final rule. Accordingly, notice and opportunity for prior public comment are impracticable and contrary to the public interest pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b).

In addition, the FAA finds that good cause exists pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d) for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days, for the same reasons the FAA found good cause to forgo notice and comment.

## Regulatory Flexibility Act

The requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) do not apply when an agency finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 to adopt a rule without prior notice and comment. Because the FAA has determined that it has good cause to adopt this rule without prior notice and comment, RFA analysis is not required.

## Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 37 helicopters of U.S. registry.

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

### Estimated costs

Action	Labor Cost	Parts Cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
Inspect pyrotechnic cartridge	4 work-hours x \$85 per hour = \$340	\$0	\$340	\$12,580

The FAA estimates the following costs to do any replacements that would be required based on the results of the inspection. The agency has no way of determining the number of helicopters that might need this replacement:

### On-condition costs

Action	Labor Cost	Parts Cost	Cost per product
Replace pyrotechnical cartridge	4 work-hours x \$85 per hour = \$340	\$2,710	\$3,050

## 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**

This AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD 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.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

- (1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866, and
- (2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska.

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

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

### **The Amendment**

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 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:

**2026-04-01 Airbus Helicopters:** Amendment 39-23260; Docket No. FAA-2026-0746;

Project Identifier MCAI-2025-01628-R.

**(a) Effective Date**

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective [INSERT DATE 15 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**(b) Affected ADs**

None.

**(c) Applicability**

This AD applies to all Airbus Helicopters Model SA330J helicopters, certificated in any category.

**(d) Subject**

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code: 2600; Fire protection system.

**(e) Unsafe Condition**

This AD was prompted by a report that the measured resistance value of the pyrotechnic cartridge of the engine fire extinguisher was out of tolerance. The FAA is issuing this AD to detect and address degradation of the pyrotechnic cartridge. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in failure of the cartridge to activate the engine fire extinguisher in the case of an engine fire with consequent damage to the helicopter or injury to occupants.

**(f) Compliance**

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

**(g) Requirements**

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 2025-0231, dated October 21, 2025 (EASA AD 2025-0231).

**(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2025-0231**

(1) Where EASA AD 2025-0231 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) Where EASA AD 2025-0231 specifies compliance in terms of flight hours, this AD requires using hours time-in-service.

(3) Where EASA AD 2025-0231 defines serviceable part as “Pyrotechnical cartridge, eligible for installation in accordance with approved AH [Airbus Helicopters] instructions, which is not an affected part; or an affected part which, within 7 days before installation, passed an inspection (no discrepancy found) in accordance with the instructions of the ASB”, this AD requires replacing that text with “Pyrotechnical cartridge, eligible for installation in accordance with the original issue of the alert service bulletin listed in in Ref. Publications, which is not an affected part; or an affected part which, within 7 days before installation, passed an inspection (no discrepancy found) in accordance with the original issue of the alert service bulletin listed in Ref. Publications”.

(4) Where the material referenced in EASA AD 2025-0231 specifies “check”, this AD requires replacing that text with “inspect”.

(5) Where paragraph (1) of EASA AD 2025-0231 specifies “Within 3 months after the effective date of this AD, or within 6 months since the last check of the measured resistance value accomplished on that affected part in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SA 330 Maintenance Manual work card MDE 26.20.602, whichever occurs first”, this AD requires replacing that text with “Within 3 months after the effective date of this AD”.

(6) Where the material referenced in EASA AD 2025-0231 specifies discarding parts, this AD does not require that action.

(7) This AD does not adopt the “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2025-0231.

**(i) No Reporting Requirement**

Although the material referenced in EASA AD 2025-0231 specifies to submit certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not require those actions.

**(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](mailto: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 George Weir, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (817) 222-4045; email: [george.a.weir@faa.gov](mailto:george.a.weir@faa.gov).

**(m) Material Incorporated by Reference**

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference 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 2025-0231 dated October 21, 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 February 9, 2026.

Steven W. Thompson,  
Acting Deputy Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division,  
Aircraft Certification Service.  
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