



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2026-2283; Project Identifier MCAI-2026-00077-R; Amendment 39-23362; AD 2026-11-01]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Helicopters Model H160-B helicopters modified by Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) SR00223IB. This AD was prompted by reports of various deficiencies on the parts installed on the jettisonable window system. This AD requires removing the jettisonable window and, depending on the removal results, replacing the locking fingers; inspecting and installing any missing retaining rings; and inspecting the left-hand (LH) side and right-hand (RH) side emergency handle latch covers (covers) and, depending on the inspection results, replacing the covers or reinstalling airworthy covers. This AD also requires performing repetitive lubrication of the locking fingers installed on the windows jettisonable system and repetitive operational tests of the windows jettisonable system after each lubrication. Additionally, this AD requires modifying the helicopter by replacing each cover and prohibits the installation of certain window aesthetic covers or electrochromic windows 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 35 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this AD as of [INSERT DATE 35 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES:

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2026-2283; 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 address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For European Union Aviation Safety Agency (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; website: easa.europa.eu. You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu. For Mecaer Aviation Group (MAG) material identified in this AD, contact MAG, Via dell'Artigianato 1, Montepandone 63076 Ascoli Piceno, Italy; phone: +39 0735-7091; email: caw@mecaer.com; or at mecaer.com.

- You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, 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-2026-2283.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Buitrago Perez, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (516) 228-7368; email: brenda.l.buitrago.perez@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all Airbus Helicopters Model H160-B helicopters modified by STC SR00223IB. The NPRM was published in the *Federal Register* on February 26, 2026 (91 FR 9506). The NPRM was prompted by EASA AD 2025-0269, dated December 1, 2025 (EASA AD 2025-0269) (also referred to as the MCAI), issued by EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union. The MCAI states there have been reports of various deficiencies involving parts installed on the jettisonable window system, which include difficulty moving the locking fingers from the locking position that could cause the jettison function to fail; missing retaining rings on the jettison window hinge pins; and intermediate covers found partially detached.

In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to require removing the jettisonable window and, depending on the removal results, replacing the locking fingers; inspecting and replacing any missing retaining rings; and inspecting the LH side and RH side covers and, depending on the inspection results, replacing the covers or reinstalling airworthy covers. In the NPRM, the FAA also proposed to require performing repetitive lubrication of the locking fingers installed on the windows jettisonable system and repetitive operational tests of the windows jettisonable system after each lubrication. Additionally, in the NPRM the FAA proposed to require modifying the helicopter by replacing each cover and to prohibit installing certain window aesthetic covers or electrochromic windows unless certain requirements are met. The FAA is issuing this AD to prevent failure of the jettisoning function of the window, which if not addressed, could result in the inability to evacuate helicopter occupants during an emergency situation.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2026-2283.

Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

Comments

The FAA received no comments on the NPRM or on the determination of the costs.

Conclusion

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 reviewed the relevant data, considered any comments received, and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Accordingly, the FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products. Except for minor editorial changes and corrections to the cost calculations, this AD is adopted as proposed in the NPRM. None of the changes will increase the economic burden on any operator.

Material Incorporated by Reference Under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed EASA AD 2025-0269. This material specifies, for helicopters that have aesthetic cover installation part number (P/N) 6A6H5600A002001XYZ and electrochromic window installation P/N 6A6H5600A001001XYZ installed, procedures for removing the jettisonable windows and, if applicable, replacing the locking fingers and inspecting and installing any missing retaining rings. EASA AD 2025-0269 also specifies procedures for inspecting the LH side and RH side covers and, depending on the inspection results, replacing any covers that have discrepancies with certain part-numbered covers. EASA AD 2025-0269 specifies procedures for repetitively lubricating the locking fingers and performing an operational test after each lubrication for

helicopters that have aesthetic cover installation P/N 6A6H5600A002001XYZ and electrochromic window installation P/N 6A6H5600A001001XYZ installed.

Additionally, EASA AD 2025-0269 specifies procedures for modifying the helicopter by replacing the LH side and RH side covers and prohibits the installation of certain part-numbered aesthetic covers or certain part-numbered electrochromic windows on any helicopter unless certain requirements are met.

The FAA also reviewed MAG Mandatory Service Bulletin No. SB-A6H-015, dated November 19, 2025, which specifies procedures for inspection, replacement, and lubrication of the locking fingers; inspection for missing retaining rings and installation instructions for any missing retaining rings; inspection and replacement of certain part-numbered covers; and an operational test for the jettisonable windows system.

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.

Differences Between This AD and the MCAI

The MCAI applies to Airbus Helicopters Model H160-B helicopters modified with EASA STC 10080809, whereas this AD applies to Airbus Helicopters Model H160-B helicopters modified with FAA STC SR00223IB, dated October 3, 2024.

Where the MCAI specifies contacting MAG for corrective instructions, this AD requires using a method approved by the FAA, or EASA, or Airbus Helicopters' EASA Design Organizational Approval.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects eight 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
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Remove jettisonable window systems (6 per helicopter)	4 work-hours x \$85 per hour = \$340 (per window)	\$0	\$2,040 (6 windows)	\$16,320
Inspect retaining rings	1 work-hour x \$85 per hour = \$85	\$0	\$85	\$680
Inspect LH and RH covers	4 work-hours x \$85 per hour = \$340	\$0	\$680 (2 covers)	\$5,440
Lubricate locking fingers	2 work-hours x \$85 per hour = \$170	\$0	\$170	\$1,360
Perform operational test	2 work-hours x \$85 per hour = \$170	\$0	\$170	\$1,360
Modify LH and RH covers	2 work-hours x \$85 per hour = \$170	\$290 (per cover)	\$920 (2 covers)	\$7,360

Estimated Costs for On-Condition Costs

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product
Replace locking fingers	Up to 12 work-hours x \$85 per hour = \$1,020	\$3,520 (per kit)	\$4,540 (per kit)
Install missing retaining rings	1 work-hour x \$85 per hour = \$85	Up to \$50 (per ring)	Up to \$135 (per ring)

The FAA has included all known costs in its cost estimate. According to the manufacturer, however, some of the costs of this 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

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,
- (2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, 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.

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:

2026-11-01 Airbus Helicopters: Amendment 39-23362; Docket No. FAA-2026-2283;

Project Identifier MCAI-2026-00077-R.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective [INSERT DATE 35 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to all Airbus Helicopters Model H160-B helicopters, certificated in any category, modified by Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) SR00223IB.

(d) Subject

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code 5630, Door windows.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by reports of various deficiencies on the parts installed on the jettisonable window system. The FAA is issuing this AD to prevent failure of the jettisoning function of the window. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in the inability to evacuate helicopter occupants during an emergency situation.

(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 (EASA) AD 2025-0269, dated December 1, 2025 (EASA AD 2025-0269).

(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2025-0269 and MAG SB-A6H-015

(1) Where EASA AD 2025-0269 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) Where EASA AD 2025-0269 requires compliance in terms of flight hours, this AD requires using hours time-in-service.

(3) Where paragraph (5) of EASA AD 2025-0269 specifies “perform one operational test of the window jettisonable systems in accordance with the instructions of Part IV of the MSB”, this AD requires replacing that text with “perform one operational test (also referred to as a functional test) of the window jettisonable systems in accordance with the instructions of Part IV of the MSB”.

(4) Where paragraph (6) of EASA AD 2025-0269 and Mecaer Aviation Group Mandatory Service Bulletin No. SB-A6H-015, dated November 19, 2025 (MAG SB-A6H-015) referenced in EASA AD 2025-0269 specifies “new”, this AD requires replacing that text with “new (zero hours time-in-service)”.

(5) Where paragraph (8) of EASA AD 2025-0269 specifies contacting MAG [Mecaer Aviation Group] for applicable corrective actions and instructions if a discrepancy is detected during the operational test, and where the material referenced in EASA AD 2025-0269 specifies to contact MAG if a functional test fails, this AD requires, before further flight, performing these actions in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA; or EASA; or Airbus Helicopters’ EASA Design Organization Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(6) Where MAG SB-A6H-015 referenced in EASA AD 2025-0269 specifies “in case of doubt”, this AD requires replacing that text with “inspect for broken locking fingers”.

(7) Where MAG SB-A6H-015 referenced in EASA AD 2025-0269 specifies “confirm that no visible damage is present”, this AD requires replacing that text with

“inspect for damage (any crack, deformation, wear, corrosion, looseness, elongation, impact mark, or structural defect)”.

(8) Where MAG SB-A6H-015 referenced in EASA AD 2025-0269 specifies “scrapped”, this AD requires replacing that text with “remove from service”.

(9) This AD does not adopt the “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2025-0269.

(i) No Reporting Requirement

Although the material referenced in EASA AD 2025-0269 specifies to submit certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not require that action.

(j) 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 (k) 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.

(k) Additional Information

For more information about this AD, contact Brenda Buitrago Perez, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (516) 228-7368; email: brenda.l.buitrago.perez@faa.gov.

(l) 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 2025-0269, dated December 1, 2025.

(ii) Mecaer Aviation Group (MAG) Mandatory Service Bulletin No. SB-A6H-015, dated November 19, 2025.

(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; website: easa.europa.eu. You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu. For MAG material identified in this AD, contact MAG, Via dell'Artigianato 1, Monteprandone 63076 Ascoli Piceno, Italy; phone: +39 0735-7091; email: caw@mecaer.com; or at mecaer.com.

(4) You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, 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 or email fr.inspection@nara.gov.

Issued on May 22, 2026.

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