



EASA Safety Information Bulletin

SIB No.: 2010-05
Issued: 25 February 2010
[Correction: 26 February 2010]

Subject: Eurocopter AS350 and AS355 helicopters - Improvement of Pilot's and Co-pilot's Seats

Ref. Publication: Eurocopter (EC) Service Letter (SL) No. 1424-25-99 issued on 24.11.1999
 EC Information Notice (IN) No. 2138-I-25 issued on 26.01.2010
 EC Service Bulletin (SB) AS350 No. 25.00.63 and AS355 No.25.00.43
 EC SB's AS350 No. 25.00.57 and AS355 No.25.00.58

Description: This Service Information Bulletin (SIB) is related to some accidents which occurred on the AS350/AS355 fleet failures of the front seats or their attachments were found as a consequence of these events.

In 1999 Eurocopter published SL No. 1424-25-99 to inform on the development of pilot's and co-pilot's improved seats offered as optional equipment. These improvements increased the seat and its attachments strength and, depending on the installed option, introduced also energy-absorbing seat installations. This publication was followed by the issuance of EC SB No. AS350 No.25.00.63, and AS355 No.25.00.43 related to the reinforcement of the bucket seats (Modification 07-2835), and AS350 No. 25.00.57 and AS355 No. 25.00.58 related to the installation of energy-absorbing seats (Modification OP3110) recommending the installation of these improved seats on AS 350 and AS355 helicopters.

Information provided in EC SL No. 1424-25-99 has been reminded and updated in EC Information Notice No. 2138-I-25

The AS350/AS355 basic front seats without any improvements recommended in the subject EC SL and IN comply with the minimum performance standard of the applicable certification bases. Nevertheless the modification thereof in accordance with that SL will enhance occupants' safety.

Recommendations: The purpose of this EASA Safety Information Bulletin is to recommend Operators of AS350 and AS355 helicopters to incorporate the seat improvements offered by EC in SL No. 1424-25-99 and in IN No. 2138-I-25, in order to increase pilot's and co-pilot's seat strength and crashworthiness and thus to provide an increased level of protection to the occupants in case of impact during an accident.

Applicability: EC AS 350 and AS355 models as per the applicability of EC SBs AS350 No. 25.00.63, AS355 No. 25.00.43. AS350 No. 25.00.57 and AS355 No. 25.00.58 without any seat improvement options recommended therein.

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