



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Aviation Safety

10101 Hillwood Pkwy  
Fort Worth, TX 76177

December 7, 2021

In reply refer to: 730-21-396

Mr. Mike May  
Sr Technical Representative AS350/355/EC130/120  
Airbus Helicopters Inc.  
2701 Forum Drive  
Grand Prairie, TX 75052-7099

Subject: Approval of Alternative Method of Compliance (AMOC) to Airworthiness  
Directive (AD) 2021-20-16

References: (1) Airbus Helicopters AMOC request letter dated Nov 15, 2021

Dear Mr. May:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has received your letter reference (1) proposing a global AMOC to paragraph (c) (2) of AD 2021-20-16 applicable to your Airbus Model AS350B3 fleet. AD 2021-20-16 paragraph (c) (2) lists the AD partial applicability as “Model AS350B3 helicopters, all serial numbers except those that have embodied Airbus Helicopters Modification 073148 in production.”

You proposed that AS350B3 helicopters are no longer part of the (c) (2) applicability if those helicopters have installed certain upper vertical stabilizers with part numbers 350A14-0020-1701, 350A14-0020-1702, 350A14-0020-1101, 350A14-0020-1001 (stabilizers) after the introduction of Airbus Helicopters Modification 073148.

You further indicated that the aforementioned part numbers provide an acceptable level of safety to paragraph (c) (2), because those stabilizers are newer designs and have the same safety features as the part 350A14-0020-1902 embodied in production of Airbus Helicopters Modification 073148 . The primary safety features of these stabilizers is a shorter deflector along the vertical fin that allows sufficient control of the helicopter, but with less adverse loading conditions that led to the safety concern of cracking in the spar of the upper fin and fractures in the two front attachment screws.

The International Validations Branch (IVB) has reviewed your request and approves your proposal for installation of the stabilizers listed above as cancellation to the applicability as listed in (c) (2) of FAA AD 2021-20-16.

The following limitations apply to this AMOC:

- This approval is applicable to all serial Airbus Model AS350B3 helicopters with the stabilizers listed above installed.
- This FAA AMOC is transferable with the aircraft to an operator who operates the aircraft under U.S. registry.
- Before using this AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local Flight Standards District Office/Certificate Holding District Office.
- All provisions of AD 2021-20-16 that are not specifically referenced above remain fully applicable and must be complied with accordingly.
- The International Validations Branch will revoke this AMOC if the IVB later determines that this AMOC does not provide an acceptable level of safety.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Scott Franke by telephone at (817)222-5178 or by email at [scott.franke@faa.gov](mailto:scott.franke@faa.gov).

Sincerely,

Serge Napoleon  
Manager, General Aviation & Rotorcraft Section (AIR-732)  
International Validation Branch  
Compliance and Airworthiness Division  
Aircraft Certification Service