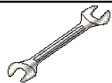


SAFETY INFORMATION NOTICE

SUBJECT: EQUIPMENT AND FURNISHINGS

Follow-up of recommendations and limitations associated with the use of bucket-type fire-fighting systems

For the attention of



AIRCRAFT CONCERNED	Version(s)	
	Civil	Military
EC120	B	
AS350	B, BA, BB, B1, B2, B3, D	L1
AS550		A2, C2, C3, U2
AS355	E, F, F1, F2, N, NP	
AS555		AF, AN, SN, UF, UN, AP
EC130	B4, T2	
SA365 / AS365	C1, C2, C3, N, N1, N2, N3	F, Fs, Fi, K, K2
AS565		MA, MB, SA, SB, UB, MBe
SA366		GA
EC155	B, B1	
SA330	J	Ba, L, Jm, S1, Sm
ALOUETTE II	313B, 3130, 318B, 318C, 3180	
ALOUETTE III	316B, 316C, 3160, 319B	
LAMA	315B	
EC225	LP	
EC725		AP
AS332	C, C1, L, L1, L2	B, B1, F1, M, M1
AS532		A2, U2, AC, AL, SC, UE, UL
EC175	B	
EC339		KUH/Surion
BO105	C (C23, CB, CB-4, CB-5), D (DB, DBS, DB-4, DBS-4, DBS-5), S (CS, CBS, CBS-4, CBS-5), LS A-3	CBS-5 KLH, E-4
MBB-BK117	A-1, A-3, A-4, B-1, B-2, C-1, C-2, C-2e, D-2, D-2m	D-2m
EC135	T1, T2, T2+, T3, P1, P2, P2+, P3, EC635 T1, EC635 T2+, EC635 T3, EC635 P2+, EC635 P3, T3H, P3H, EC635 T3H, EC635 P3H	

Airbus Helicopters recently participated in several investigations into accidents and serious incidents during fire-fighting operations involving helicopters equipped with Bucket*-type suspended systems installed under STC (Supplemental Type Certificate).

Airbus Helicopters reminds you that the use of such installations must be compliant with the recommendations of the manufacturer's/STC owner's Operations Manual.

Typically the Bucket-Type operations are performed on a short line or via a long line. This SIN pertains to both of these operations and gives advice for each. In summary, there is a maximum line length for short line operations and a minimum line length for long line operations.

For Bambi Bucket-type water bombing systems, the manufacturer's Operations Manual recommends a maximum speed (VNE) of 80 knots for all operations. In the case of short line operations, the total length of the system (firesock deployed) must be less than the length from the cargo sling/swing hook to the tail rotor disc decreased by at least 6 inches (≈ 150 mm).



Measuring the bucket. If a Firesock is to be used, attach first and then measure to the bottom of the sock. See Section 4: Flight Operations for information on how to use the Firesock.

Important Note

A) Always measure the overall extended length of your Bambi bucket.

and

B) Measure the distance from the belly hook to the closest possible point on the tail rotor.

"B" must always exceed "A" by at least six (6) inches.

Extract from the Bambi Bucket manufacturer's Operations Manual

For long line operations, the Bambi Bucket manufacturer's Operations Manual requests a minimum long line length of 50 ft (15 meters).

Important Note

It is recommended that operators, who choose to use the Bambi bucket with a longline, ensure that the longline is at least 50' long.

Extract from the Bambi Bucket manufacturer's Operations Manual

NOTE: For Bambi Bucket-type water bombing systems validated/approved by Airbus Helicopters, these recommendations for use are taken into account in the Bambi Bucket definition published in the Flight Manual supplements of the Airbus Helicopters aircraft concerned.

In most of the recent accidents and serious incidents which occurred during fire-fighting operations with this type of system, analyses of the events showed that they were due to collision of the Bambi Bucket itself or the bombing/attachment hangers with the tail rotor during aerial maneuvers.

The systems used were not compliant with the recommendations indicated above:

- use of a long line which was too short, or
- Bambi Bucket with a total length that exceeded the distance between the hook and the tail rotor disc for short line operations, or
- speed beyond maximum speed (VNE).

Airbus Helicopters thus emphasizes the importance of complying with the recommendations of the Bambi Bucket manufacturer's Operations Manual for this type of installation and the equivalent recommendations in Operations Manuals of similar devices.

These recommendations complement those published in the Flight Manual supplements on external load carrying missions and especially the maximum speed (VNE) limitation.

As a complement to this Safety Information Notice (SIN), Airbus Helicopters also reminds you of Safety Information Notice (SIN) No. 3170-S-00 issued on October 03, 2017, which drew your attention to the risks and precautions associated with external load carrying operations. These precautions also apply to the operations with a Bucket*-type installation.

* Bucket is the generic term which represents all the systems used for fire-fighting (examples: Bambi-Bucket, Monsoon Bucket, Cloudbuster Bucket, etc.).