

SAFETY INFORMATION NOTICE

SUBJECT: GENERAL

**Safety risks associated with Sales and use of unauthorized/counterfeit
Airbus Helicopters parts and helicopters, all models**

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
SA341	G	B, C, D, E, F, H
SA342	J	L, L1, M, M1, Ma
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	
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, 635 T1, 635 T2+, 635 T3, 635 P2+, 635 P3	
EC135H	T3H, P3H, 635 T3H, 635 P3H	

Revision 1 of this Safety Information Notice is issued following a new case of return to service of an aircraft after rebuilding without Airbus Helicopters' approval. Therefore, Airbus Helicopters reminds customers of the safety risks related to the purchases and use of non-authorized or counterfeit Airbus Helicopters parts and/or helicopters.

Over the years, Airbus Helicopters has issued a number of technical publications warning its customers against the use of any alleged "Airbus Helicopters" components sold through outlets not approved by Airbus Helicopters. Airbus Helicopters has also warned operators against the forbidden practice of reusing or rebuilding (without proper authorization, oversight or regulatory compliance) aircraft or aircraft components that have been destroyed, substantially damaged or, more problematically, non-visibly damaged in an accident.

With the growth of the internet such unauthorized practices have proliferated. Purported Airbus Helicopters parts and airframes, without any certification documents or even identifying information, are now regularly posted on websites such as eBay. Through this Safety Information Notice, Airbus Helicopters again reminds all operators, pilots and maintenance personnel of the serious risks associated with the sale and use of unauthorized helicopters or parts.

1. Unauthorized "Airbus Helicopters" Parts

Helicopter airframe elements are very complex and built to very specific tolerances. A failure during service can be potentially catastrophic. For these reasons, the manufacture and repair processes must be closely monitored to ensure that the repaired elements meet all necessary safety standards. Repair centers performing such activities, both civil and military, must fulfill specific, stringent requirements in order to guarantee that their work complies, for safety reasons, with Airbus Helicopters standards, rules and technical data.

Airbus Helicopters sometimes receives reports of incidents and even accidents that have occurred as the result of the use of aircraft parts that were not provided by Airbus Helicopters or any Airbus Helicopters-licensed or authorized source. Similarly, several cases have been reported in which original Airbus Helicopters parts (even parts that were scrapped after an incident or accident) were reworked by third-parties without Airbus Helicopters approval or oversight, and then resold as "airworthy".

Recently, Airbus Helicopters has also seen many purported "Airbus Helicopters" parts and airframes posted on websites such as eBay. A number of these postings specifically state that the seller has no logbooks, no documentation, and often no identifying information about the product(s) being sold.

Airbus Helicopters is obliged to warn all of its customers that the usage of parts in Airbus Helicopters' helicopters that have not been provided by Airbus Helicopters or its qualified and authorized manufacturers or service centers:

- Can be unlawful.
- Can adversely, and seriously, affect the airworthiness of the aircraft.
- Can pose a serious risk of property damage, injury and/or death.
- Will invalidate any Airbus Helicopters warranties.
- Will transfer the full responsibility for any related accidents or injury to the user of such unauthorized parts.

If such an unauthorized part is alleged to have caused or contributed to an accident, incident or injury, Airbus Helicopters also expressly reserves the right to seek indemnity from the user and/or supplier of the unauthorized part.

If you have any doubts about the integrity or authenticity of any item being sold as an "Airbus Helicopters" part, Airbus Helicopters strongly recommends that you:

- (1) do not use the product,
- (2) make a note of where you purchased the product, or where you saw it for sale, and
- (3) consult Airbus Helicopters about the issue.

2. Destroyed Helicopters and Components

In addition to the problems associated with the sale and use of unauthorized parts, Airbus Helicopters is also aware of the existence of entire counterfeit helicopters, i.e., helicopters rebuilt around a data plate without any Airbus Helicopters involvement or authorization, often after being destroyed in an accident.

Airbus Helicopters is obliged to remind all its customers that accidents can cause irreversible damage to aircraft parts, especially life limited parts, and that such damage is not always detectable through non-destructive test procedures, even the procedures specified in the Maintenance and Repair Manuals. Therefore, there is always a risk that parts which show no evidence of damage during testing are still not airworthy and thus constitute a safety hazard.

As a result, the re-use of parts from helicopters involved in accidents is permissible only if there is proof that the mechanical and thermal stresses are within allowable limits as specified by Airbus Helicopters' own standards and procedures, based on company expertise. Such procedures and expertise are not available to, and therefore cannot be applied by, unauthorized third-parties. It is prohibited to re-use parts or assemblies which have been involved in an accident without formal technical approval from Airbus Helicopters' Technical Support Directorate. It must always be suspected that a part or airframe being sold without sufficient identifying information or records was involved in an accident. Such parts or airframes can be irreversibly damaged and therefore pose a safety hazard.

We remind our customers that the classification "accident" is determined by the AIB (Accident Investigation Board) of the country of occurrence.

The risk increases if an entire, previously destroyed aircraft is "rebuilt" without the involvement or authorization of Airbus Helicopters. Although minor damage can in some cases be repaired by authorized service and repair stations, if an aircraft is officially determined to have been destroyed, it cannot be rebuilt except by the manufacturer under the rules established by the certification authority-approved documentation.

If you decide not to repair the aircraft, Airbus Helicopters asks you to take a photo of the identification plate before and after having cut it in 4 parts and to send it to us in order to prevent any risk of non-authorized rebuilding.

With respect to aircraft being offered for sale through the internet or unauthorized resellers, it can be simply impossible to ever verify the airworthiness of the helicopter, let alone each of its parts. As a first step toward addressing this problem, Airbus Helicopters has begun posting lists of destroyed or potentially destroyed aircraft on its Safety website at: <http://www.airbus.com/helicopters/safety/counterfeit-or-destroyed-aircraft.html>

If you have any doubts about the integrity or authenticity of a particular helicopter or component, Airbus Helicopters strongly recommends that you:

- (1) do not fly the aircraft,
- (2) make a note of where you purchased the helicopter or component, and/or where you saw it for sale,
- (3) check the helicopter's identifying information against Airbus Helicopters' destroyed helicopter list, and
- (4) consult Airbus Helicopters about the issue.

Improving flight safety has always been and always will be Airbus Helicopters' first priority. We encourage all of our customers to report any occurrence or issue they believe may pose a safety risk. Your understanding of and compliance with the guidance outlined in this Safety Information Notice will help improve safety for everyone.