

Continuing Airworthiness Notice 27-025 Rev 1



Airbus Helicopters AS 350 and AS 355 Series – Correct Installation of Co-Pilot Cyclic Stick

22 September 2023

Issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand in the interests of aviation safety. A Continuing Airworthiness Notice (CAN) is intended to alert, educate, and make recommendations to the aviation community. A CAN contains information and guidance about an airworthiness concern that does not meet the criteria for an Airworthiness Directive (AD). The inspections and practices described in this CAN must still be carried out in accordance with the applicable NZCAR Parts 21, 43 and 91.

CAN numbering is by ATA Chapter followed by a sequential number for the next CAN in that ATA Chapter.

Applicability:

All Airbus Helicopters AS 350 and AS 355 series.

Purpose:

The CAA has received a report of an incident where the co-pilot cyclic control stick on an AS 350 helicopter was inadvertently installed incorrectly (180 degrees out). The incorrectly installed co-pilot cyclic control was not identified until the aircraft had completed two maintenance check flights.

Background:

The affected aircraft was undergoing maintenance at the time the cyclic control was installed, and it appears that although the necessary duplicate inspections of the control system were carried out, the incorrectly installed cyclic control was not identified. The aircraft went on to complete two track and balance flights with two different pilots, before a third pilot identified that the co-pilot cyclic control stick was incorrectly installed.

AS 350 Service Bulletin (SB) No 67.15 Correct Positioning of the Copilot's Cyclic Stick and AS 355 Service Bulletin (SB) No 67.11 Correct Positioning of the Copilot's Cyclic Stick, both dated July 1989, introduced a modification to the cyclic stick to prevent incorrect installation.

These SBs are not the subject of an Airworthiness Directive but are considered mandatory by the manufacturer.

Recommendation:

Operators and maintenance providers are reminded of the importance of thoroughly completing the necessary duplicate safety inspections ensuring correct assembly and function. Where necessary, reference should be made to the relevant Instructions for Continued Airworthiness.

Operators are also reminded of the value of assessing manufacturers service information and establishing the configuration of an aircraft when inducting into their fleet.

Continuing Airworthiness Notice – 05-002 Service Bulletin Compliance, provides guidance for aircraft operators and maintenance engineers regarding the assessment of and their decision as to whether they need to comply with manufacturer's service information.