



Cabin Floor Viewing Window/ Energy Absorbing Seat Interference

AWB 53-002 **Issue :** 1
Date : 12 October 2005

Effectivity

All Eurocopter AS350 and AS355 helicopters with any "Cabin Floor Viewing Window" modification.

Purpose

The purpose of this AWB is to bring to the attention of operators issues relating to the possible interference between the "High-Energy Absorbing Seat" and the hatch cover on the "Cabin Floor Viewing Window".

Background

Helicopter manufacturer Eurocopter has issued an Information Telex to operators of AS350 and AS355 helicopters highlighting that the Eurocopter hatch used to cover the optional "Cabin Floor Viewing Window" could interfere with the vertical travel of the optional Eurocopter "High-Energy Absorbing Seat" in the event of an accident. CASA is aware of similar third party "Cabin Floor Viewing Window" modifications in these aircraft models and wants to highlight that the issue may not just affect the Eurocopter modification specifically.

Recommendations

Operators should ensure the following:

- a. Assess whether the aircraft has a "High-Energy Absorbing Seat" installed.
- b. Assess whether the open hatch cover touches the seat or is likely to be within the path of the seat if the seat deforms during an accident.
- c. If interference is found, do not operate the aircraft with the "Cabin Floor Viewing Window" Hatch Cover open until a modification can be performed to eliminate the interference. Install a placard on the hatch.

Enquiries

Enquiries with regard to the content of Airworthiness Bulletins should be made via the direct link e-mail address included on the Airworthiness Bulletin web site, AirworthinessBulletin@casa.gov.au or in writing to the Manufacturing, Certification and New Technology Office, GPO Box 2005, Canberra, ACT, 2601