

Flight Control Bolt Swapping on AS350  
and AS355 Helicopters

**AWB** 67-001 **Issue :** 1  
**Date :** 20 July 2007

## 1. **Applicability**

AS 350 and AS 355 Series helicopters.

## 2. **Purpose**

Alert maintenance personnel to the dangers associated with using incorrect bolts to install the main rotor flight control actuators.

## 3. **Background**

CASA has received several SDR reports regarding manufacturer's approved bolts being installed in inappropriate locations, such as where the main rotor flight control system actuators are attached to the swashplate and the transmission.

The problem is that the approved bolts for each end of the actuator, while very similar in appearance, length and diameter and can easily be transposed. Transposition of the bolts may result in excessive bolt wear. The manufacturer requires specific part number bolts to be installed in specific locations because each bolt has very different metallurgical qualities (including hardness) in order to match the desired design requirements of the installation.

Installing incorrect bolts can result in excessive wear and possible failure of the bolt which may result in loss of control of the rotorcraft.

Installing bolts having a different part number to that specified by the manufacturer for a specific location is equivalent to installing unapproved hardware and is, therefore, an unapproved modification.

## 4. **Recommendations**

1. Inspect currently installed bolt part numbers at each end of the main rotor flight control actuators to confirm the correct bolt configuration.
2. Ensure that at each and every time the main rotor flight control actuators are installed, the correct part numbered bolts are used in the correct locations in accordance with the current manufacturer's instructions.



# AIRWORTHINESS BULLETIN

Flight Control Bolt Swapping on AS350  
and AS355 Helicopters

**AWB** 67-001 **Issue :** 1  
**Date :** 20 July 2007

## 5. Enquiries

Enquiries with regard to the content of this Airworthiness Bulletin should be made via the direct link e-mail address:

[AirworthinessBulletin@casa.gov.au](mailto:AirworthinessBulletin@casa.gov.au)

Or in writing, to:

Manufacturing, Certification and  
New Technologies Office,  
GPO Box 2005, Canberra, ACT, 2601