

# European Aviation Safety Agency

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**DECISION 2014/028/R  
OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY**

**of 15 September 2014**

**on**

**termination of rulemaking task RMT.0350 and RMT.0351  
'Helicopter Vibration Health Monitoring'**

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN AVIATION SAFETY AGENCY,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 216/2008<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 38(3)(a) thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) The Agency shall, pursuant to Article 18(a) and (c) of Regulation (EC) No 216/2008, issue Opinions addressed to the Commission and Certification Specifications and Acceptable Means of Compliance, as well as Guidance Material for the application of Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 and its Implementing Rules.
- (2) The specific objective of rulemaking task was to validate the need for a regulatory requirement for a vibration health monitoring (VHM) system to be installed on complex helicopters used in commercial air transport (CAT) operations, however, not in offshore operations. A VHM system allows the detection of certain mechanical failures before they occur.
- (3) ICAO Annex 6 contains a recommendation, not a Standard, that this type of helicopters should be equipped with a VHM system. RMT.509/510 introduced such requirement for helicopter offshore operations.
- (4) The Agency has analysed accidents that occurred with complex helicopters that were not involved in offshore operations. The analysis, covering a 12 year period, indicated a dominance of operational accident causes. The associated very low number of technical accidents do not substantiate a regulatory requirement for installation of

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Aviation Safety Agency, and repealing Council Directive 91/670/EEC, Regulation (EC) No 1592/2002 and Directive 2004/36/EC (OJ L 79, 19.3.2008, p. 1), as last amended by Commission Regulation (EU) No 6/2013 of 8 January 2013 (OJ L 4, 9.1.2013, p. 34).



vibration health monitoring system in these helicopters as a safety improvement is not foreseen or expected. Neither does the Agency see any need to adopt Acceptable Means of Compliance or Guidance Material in this respect.

- (5) Any operator may decide, based on its risk assessment, type of operation and helicopter used, to fit a VHM system voluntarily.
- (6) The Agency, pursuant to Article 52(1)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 and Articles 5(3), 6 and 7 of the Agency's Rulemaking Procedure<sup>2</sup> has widely consulted interested parties on the matters which are the subject of this Decision and has provided thereafter a written response to the comments received<sup>3</sup>.

HAS DECIDED:

### ***Article 1***

Rulemaking initiated by RMT.0350 and RMT.0351 is hereby terminated without an Opinion to amend Commission Regulation (EU) No 965/2012 nor an amendment to the associated Acceptable Means of Compliance or Guidance Material.

### ***Article 2***

This Decision shall enter into force one day following that of its publication in the Official Publication of the Agency.

Done at Cologne, 15 September 2014

*For the European Aviation Safety Agency  
The Executive Director*

Patrick KY

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<sup>2</sup> EASA MB Decision No 01-2012 of 13 March 2012 amending and replacing Decision 08-2007 concerning the procedure to be applied by the Agency for the issuing of Opinions, Certification Specifications and Guidance Material ('Rulemaking Procedure') (<http://easa.europa.eu/official-publication/rulemaking-procedure.php>).

<sup>3</sup> <http://easa.europa.eu/rulemaking/r-archives.php#crd>

