



## Safety recommendation no. 528

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| <b>Date of the publication</b>                                   | 30.12.2016  |
| <b>Number of the final report</b>                                | 2254  |
| <b>Safety deficit</b>  | <p>On 6th June 2013, a pilot took off in an Agusta A109 SP helicopter for a technical flight in order to carry out a functional check on the rescue winch. A winch operator was on board and a mechanic was on the ground with the prepared load of 250 kg. The mechanic's task was to attach the load to the winch hook at the given time. The winch cable broke when the test load was being lifted.</p> <p>The findings of the investigation lead to the conclusion that before the load was lifted, the hoist cable had become snagged behind the nut which attaches the rescue hoist handle assembly, and subsequently broke under stress. The design of the rescue hoist attachment assembly was identified as the causal factor.</p> |
| <b>Safety recommendation</b>                                     | In collaboration with the helicopter manufacturer, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) should introduce technical measures to ensure that the hoist cable is prevented from snagging on the rescue hoist attachment assembly.  |
| <b>Addressees</b>  | EASA Europäische Agentur für Flugsicherheit   |
| <b>Stage of the implementation</b>                               | Implemented. As explained in a letter dated 14 March 2017, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) approves the safety recommendation. EASA agrees with the need to address the risk of snagging on the rescue hoist attachment assembly. EASA issued Airworthiness Directive 2017-0025 on 14 February 2017 to mandate specific inspections and a modification of the attaching means of the rescue hoist handle on the rescue hoist support. The manufacturer is currently considering also the introduction of a protective cover as a design improvement. EASA will consider making this change mandatory.  |
| <b>Investigation report concerning the safety recommendation</b> | <a href="#">Final report</a><br><a href="#">Schlussbericht</a>  |