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Supplement No. HeliSAS-RFMS-AS350/EC130

**FAA APPROVED  
ROTORCRAFT FLIGHT MANUAL  
SUPPLEMENT  
TO THE  
Eurocopter AS350B, BA, D, B1, B2, B3 and  
EC130B4  
ROTORCRAFT FLIGHT MANUAL  
WHEN EQUIPPED WITH THE  
Hoh Aeronautics, Inc. HeliSAS/Autopilot  
System**

REGISTRATION #: \_\_\_\_\_ SERIAL #: \_\_\_\_\_

The information in this supplement is FAA approved and must be attached to the appropriate FAA Approved Eurocopter AS350B, BA, D, B1, B2, B3, or EC130B4 Rotorcraft Flight Manual when the Hoh Aeronautics, Inc., HeliSAS/Autopilot system is installed in accordance with:

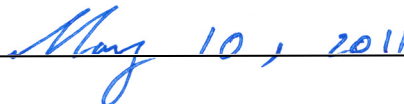
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The information contained in this document supplements or supersedes the basic manual only in those areas listed herein. For limitations, emergency procedures, normal procedures, and performance information not contained in this supplement, consult the basic FAA Approved Rotorcraft Flight Manual.

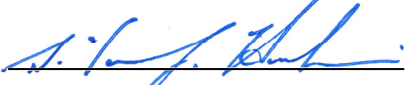
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## SECTION 1: GENERAL

This supplement contains the changes to the basic flight manual procedures and additional data applicable when the HeliSAS® two-axis (pitch & roll) stability augmentation system and autopilot (SAS/Autopilot) is installed on the helicopter.

The attitude-command-attitude-hold SAS mode of the HeliSAS maintains helicopter attitude in all flight conditions by applying corrective inputs to the cyclic in order to maintain the commanded or reference attitude. Autopilot modes provide altitude-hold, heading-hold, navigation signal tracking, and vertical (approach) navigation features depending on installed avionics.

### **CAUTION**

SAS is intended to enhance safety by reducing pilot workload. It is not a substitute for adequate pilot skill nor does it relieve the pilot of the responsibility to maintain adequate outside visual reference.

SAS and autopilot modes are selected and de-selected by pushing buttons on the HeliSAS control panel (HCP) shown in Figure 1, or by using the force-trim-release (FTR) and autopilot disconnect (AP DISC) buttons on the cyclic grip shown in Figure 2



**Figure 1 HeliSAS Control Panel (HCP)**



**Figure 2 Typical Cyclic Grip with FTR and AP DISC Buttons**

1. Engage SAS by holding FTR button on cyclic for 1.25 seconds or longer.
2. Disengage SAS by pressing red AP DISC button on cyclic.
3. If autopilot modes are engaged, the first press of the AP DISC button disengages all autopilot modes, and the second press disengages the SAS.
4. Holding the AP DISC for 1.25 seconds or longer has the same effect as two presses (turns off SAS and autopilot)

SAS disengagement is always annunciated by 4 beeps in the headset and the SAS LED on the HCP changes from green to white or from green to dark.

Intentional autopilot mode disengagement is annunciated by the LED on the HCP changing from green to dark with no aural tone. Automatic autopilot mode disengagement due to a safety monitor trip is annunciated by a single beep.

## **SECTION 2: LIMITATIONS**

### **Flight and Maneuvering**

Pilot's hand must be on the cyclic grip under the following conditions:

1. During SAS engagement or intentional disengagement
2. At indicated airspeeds less than 44 KIAS when flying in close proximity to the terrain

Operating the helicopter is approved for VFR.

### **AS350 Altitude Limits**

Maximum density altitude with SAS or lateral autopilot modes engaged is 16,000 ft.

Maximum density altitude with altitude hold engaged is 12,000 ft.

### **EC130B4 Altitude Limitation**

Maximum density altitude with SAS or lateral autopilot modes engaged is 19,300 ft.

Maximum density altitude with altitude hold engaged is 14,300 ft.

## SECTION 3: EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

### SAS Disengagement or Failure

SAS disengagement or failure is indicated by four beeps in the headset and/or erratic cyclic control motion or forces or unexpected deviations in pitch or roll attitude.

1. Immediately assume full manual control. Override the SAS/autopilot as necessary and disengage the system as soon as possible.
2. If SAS annunciator LED is white (standby mode), re-engagement may be attempted at pilot's discretion.

#### **CAUTION**

If unexpected attitude deviations occur, and/or the cyclic forces and/or motions are erratic, the pilot should take manual control of the cyclic and disengage SAS immediately.

A disengagement of an autopilot mode that is not commanded by the pilot via the cyclic mounted AP DISC or panel mounted HCP push buttons is indicated by a single beep in the headset. Take appropriate corrective action for unassisted vertical and horizontal navigation. Normally the basic SAS is still functional after a disengagement of one or more autopilot modes. Normal operation of the SAS will be confirmed by continued illumination of the green LED just above the SAS button on the HeliSAS control panel and existence of a cyclic-centering force gradient.

## **Cyclic Jam**

If the cyclic forces become excessive or the cyclic appears to be jammed:

1. immediately disengage the SAS using the red AP DISC on the cyclic grip or the SAS button on the HCP
2. Continue the flight using manual control.

## **SECTION 4: NORMAL PROCEDURES**

### **SAS/Autopilot Engage and Disengage**

The SAS/Autopilot is controlled by buttons on the HCP (see Figure 1) and two buttons on the cyclic grip - Force-trim-release (FTR), and a red autopilot disconnect (AP DISC) – Figure 2.

Observe that SAS LED on HCP is white indicating that SAS is in standby mode.

SAS may be engaged prior to liftoff, throughout landing, and at any airspeed.

Engage SAS by pressing SAS button on HCP or holding FTR button on cyclic for at least 1.25 seconds. Engagement of SAS is annunciated by green SAS LED on HCP (Figure 1).

Engage and disengage autopilot modes using buttons on HCP. SAS must be active to engage autopilot modes. Engaged mode is indicated by green LED. Armed mode is indicated by white LED.

SAS and autopilot modes will all be disengaged by pressing SAS button on HCP.



**NOTE**

The pilot's hand must be on the cyclic when the SAS is disengaged.

Safety monitors automatically disengage the SAS/autopilot if a malfunction is detected. Automatic disengagement of an autopilot mode while the SAS remains functional is indicated by a single beep in the headset. Automatic or intentional disengagement of the SAS and autopilot is indicated by four beeps in the headset.

### **Starting and Run-Up**

SAS - Standby or engaged

**NOTE**

Verify aural warning function (four beeps in headset) by engaging and disengaging SAS prior to liftoff

**CAUTION**

With SAS engaged, pilot must always monitor the flight controls and aircraft attitude, and be prepared to immediately assume full manual control if required.

### **Autopilot**

Autopilot modes are only available above 44 KIAS and below 155 KIAS.

The following autopilot modes are available depending on installed avionics:

### **Heading Mode (HDG)**

Set heading bug on HSI, EFIS display, or directional gyro.

Press HDG button on HCP - LED above heading on HCP turns green.

Helicopter will turn to and hold the selected heading.

#### **NOTE**

If a directional gyro is the heading source, and that sensor fails, HDG holds the current GPS track angle. The commanded GPS track angle may be reset by flying through the system to achieve a desired track angle and pressing and releasing the FTR button on the cyclic grip.

### **Navigation Mode (NAV)**

Select VLOC or GPS as course reference on navigation receiver and check for valid signal.

If HDG is active, turn heading bug to desired intercept angle

Press NAV button on HCP and observe that the LED above NAV is white, indicating that NAV is armed

NAV will automatically transition from armed to active at course intercept. NAV LED changes from white to green at intercept.

If HDG is not active when NAV is selected, autopilot will intercept course at a 45 deg angle.

**NOTE**

If an ILS is programmed into the GPS, the GPS navigation radio may automatically switch from GPS to VLOC. If in NAV mode, this will cause the autopilot to automatically transition from tracking an active GPS course to the course that is set on the HSI.

**NOTE**

When executing an ILS or localizer approach in VLOC mode, it is recommended that the GPS overlay for that approach be active in the navigation receiver. This will enhance localizer capture and tracking in strong crosswinds and improves pilot situational awareness.

**Backcourse Mode (BC)**

If HDG is active, turn heading bug to desired intercept angle

Press BC button on HCP and observe that the LED above BC is white, indicating that BC is armed

BC will automatically transition from armed to active at course intercept. BC LED changes from white to green at intercept.

If HDG is not active when BC is selected, autopilot will intercept course at a 45 deg angle.

## Altitude Hold Mode (ALT)

Select ALT at the desired altitude. Autopilot will hold this altitude.

If in climb or descent when ALT is selected, rotorcraft will gently level off and fly back to selected altitude

To make a small change in altitude with ALT engaged:

1. Fly through system to desired altitude
2. Press and release the FTR button
3. Reference altitude will be reset to current altitude

### **NOTE**

If in a rapid climb or descent, the lag in the altimeter will cause the final altitude to be slightly different than selected. Fly through system to desired altitude and reset reference altitude.

### **NOTE**

The autopilot uses pitch attitude to control altitude so airspeed will vary with power setting.

## Vertical Navigation Mode (VRT)

VRT is used to track ILS or VNAV glideslopes associated with instrument approach procedures.

For ILS approaches, tune ILS frequency in navigation receiver and ensure that glideslope is valid.

For GPS approaches, ensure approach is loaded and activate approach on GPS receiver.

Select VRT on HCP prior to glideslope intercept. The GPS glideslope must be valid for VRT to arm. LED above VRT will be white showing that glideslope is armed.

Autopilot will automatically intercept and track glideslope. LED above VRT changes from white to green at glideslope intercept.

***NOTE***

Recommend slowly reducing power just prior to glidepath intercept. Power changes should be made slowly while tracking glidepath to avoid large excursions from the glidepath.

***NOTE***

Selecting ALT while VRT is armed will cause VRT to dis-arm. It is therefore necessary to re-arm VRT if ALT is selected after arming VRT.

***NOTE***

VRT will automatically disengage when the GPS navigation radio CDI button is switched from VLOC to GPS at the beginning of a missed approach procedure. This will be accompanied by a one second beep in the headset.

## **SECTION 6: WEIGHT & BALANCE**

No Change

### **MANUFACTURE'S DATA**

#### **System Description**

The HeliSAS SAS/Autopilot consists of two electromechanical servo-actuators, a flight control computer (FCC), a special panel-mounted analog attitude indicator or digital attitude heading reference system (AHRS) which provides the FCC with attitude information, a HeliSAS control panel (HCP), two buttons on the cyclic stick, and interconnecting cables. One servo-actuator controls pitch, the other controls roll, and both are connected to the cyclic through electromagnetic clutches.

When the SAS/autopilot is engaged, the FCC senses aircraft attitude, heading, angular rates and linear accelerations using a combination of sensors in the flight control computer and attitude gyro and directional gyro, or AHRS. Airspeed and altitude information are obtained from the aircraft pitot/static system. The FCC sends signals to the servo-actuators to apply small corrections to the cyclic as required to maintain the commanded or reference attitude.

Force-trim-release (FTR) and autopilot/SAS disconnect (AP DISC) buttons are mounted on the cyclic grip. The FTR button is used to reset the trim attitude reference when in SAS mode. In addition, if the SAS is in a standby condition holding the FTR button for more than 1.25 seconds engages the SAS. Pressing and releasing the FTR button resets the reference altitude when

in ALT mode and the reference track angle if in HDG mode with no directional gyro heading or AHRS heading reference. The latter function requires that a functioning GPS is connected to the FCC. This reversion to GPS-track-hold only applies when the heading source is a directional gyro (does not apply to systems that use an AHRS for heading).

Safety monitors can automatically disengage autopilot modes due to detected malfunctions or loss of a valid navigation signal. Automatic autopilot disengagement is indicated by a single beep in the headset. The basic SAS (attitude hold) is still functional after a single beep. Intentional disengagement of an autopilot mode does not trigger a headset beep. Disengagement of the SAS is always annunciated by 4 beeps.

The SAS is powered from the helicopter electrical buss via a dedicated circuit breaker.

### **Normal Operation**

The SAS performs a self test and enters standby mode during aircraft start and warm-up. Standby mode is indicated by annunciation of the white LED light above the SAS mode button on the HCP. The HCP mode LEDs alternate between white and green during power-up and self test. An aural warning test (four headset beeps) is part of the self test.

**NOTE**

After initial power up the SAS will not enter standby mode until the attitude gyro bank angle is less than 6 degrees or the AHRS is aligned.

Once the system is in standby mode and while still on the ground and wearing the headset, the system should be engaged with cyclic friction off. The cyclic should exhibit a

centering tendency. Disengage the system using the AP DISC button on the cyclic and note 4 beeps in the headset. Note that the cyclic forces are nearly zero with the system disengaged.

There is no on-off switch as HeliSAS is intended to be active or in standby mode at all times. This is to ensure that the SAS can be quickly engaged if needed.

HeliSAS may be engaged at pilot's discretion using the HCP SAS mode button. A white indication on the SAS LED turns green when the system is engaged. The SAS may also be engaged by pressing the force-trim-release (FTR) button on the cyclic grip for more than 1.25 seconds.

Additional autopilot modes may be engaged using the other HCP mode buttons, but only when indicated airspeed is greater than 44 KIAS and less than 155 KIAS.

The SAS may be used throughout the flight envelope (including hover and autorotation) at pilot's discretion.

**NOTE**

Cyclic friction must be off for the SAS or autopilot to work properly. Engaging cyclic friction inhibits the ability of the SAS to stabilize the helicopter.

When the SAS is engaged while airborne, it will maintain the pitch and roll attitude at the time of engagement within the following limits. The system will not trim to pitch attitudes greater than 6 degrees nose-down (10 degrees for EC130B4), 11 degrees nose-up, and 5 degrees bank. If the system is engaged with the helicopter in a large pitch or roll attitude, it will fly the helicopter to a nearly level attitude. After SAS engagement, the reference attitude may be adjusted using the FTR button on the cyclic grip. The system will maintain the



attitude at which the trim button is released, within the above limits.

To re-trim, use a small amount of force to override the SAS and then push and release the FTR button at the desired attitude. The “fly-through” SAS is designed to remain engaged during maneuvering. If the cyclic force to override the SAS is objectionable, the system may be disengaged, or the FTR button may be held down while maneuvering. SAS inputs to the cyclic are disabled while the trim button is held down.

***NOTE***

The SAS should always be in standby mode when it is not engaged. This allows immediate engagement if required.

**Safety Tip**

The SAS provides attitude stabilization to reduce pilot workload and enhance safety. It is important that pilots do not misuse this capability and allow their attention to be diverted from monitoring helicopter attitude and looking for traffic and other obstacles. Due to the unstable nature of helicopters, SAS disengagement requires immediate pilot attention. Pilots must always be prepared to take immediate manual control.