

Interim Statement 2/2012 on Helicopter Accident on EA 206A on 3 July 2010 (AgustaWestland AW139 Registration Mark B-MHJ)

In accordance with the Hong Kong Civil Aviation (Investigation of Accidents) Regulations, an inspector's investigation is in progress to determine the circumstances and causes relating to the accident involving an AgustaWestland AW139 helicopter (registration mark B-MHJ) operated by East Asia Airlines that made a controlled ditching into the harbour north-west of Sheung Wan / Sky Shuttle Heliport, Hong Kong on 3 July 2010.

Since the occurrence of the accident, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) has issued Accident Bulletin 2/2010, Interim Statement 2/2011, and Accident Bulletin 4/2011 to update the progress of the investigation. All Accident Bulletins and Interim Statement can be downloaded from the following CAD websites:

<http://www.cad.gov.hk/english/reports.html> (English Version)

<http://www.cad.gov.hk/chinese/reports.html> (Chinese Version)

Accident Bulletin 4/2011 contains two safety recommendations for the review of the manufacturing process of the AW139 tail rotor blades and the performance of static, fatigue, dynamic and aerodynamic tests and analyses on the blades. These recommendations are being followed up by the relevant parties.

Subsequent to the issue of Accident Bulletin 4/2011, CAD has contracted QinetiQ to perform additional X-ray tomographic examination on the remained portion of the White Blade, the Blue Blade and the Yellow Blade. Also, a section of the White Blade containing the fractured surface of its inboard trailing edge strap was cut for fractographic examination. The report of these examinations has been submitted to CAD and is being reviewed by the investigation team.

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