# **Continued airworthiness**

#### SAFRAN Helicopter Engines – Jean-Luc THOUVENOT







# Key messages

- Safran HE has structured the Continued Airworthiness according to EASA regulation and monitors frequently key figures / processes with Authority
  - Collect and analyze in-service events and out of operation events
  - Inform the Authority within 72h about all event potentially leading to unsafe conditions
  - Analyze the airworthiness impact <u>at engine level</u> of these events and inform the Authority all along the process
  - Propose to the Authority the mandatory corrective actions





# Continued Aiworthiness process

 $\rightarrow$  This process is managed by the airworthiness engineer



## Continued Aiworthiness process – in service events

- Customer Support collects events occurring at operator's
- Events are sorted out to identify those with airworthiness impact: Incident Reports (IR) or Accident Report (AR)
- > AR and IR impact are issued and sent to EASA within 72h
  - Performed by corporate customer support under Airworthiness office delegation
- Investigation launched for each event in order to:
  - Identify the origin of the event
  - Assess the associated airworthiness impact



#### Continued Aiworthiness process - other events

- Any technical events detected in Design, Manufacturing, Testing, assembly, repair,...
- That could potentially affect airworthiness of the fleet
- Those events are reported to the Airworthiness Office via a 'CIREN' (Internal Report relative to an airworthiness event)
- > After evaluation, the Airworthiness Engineer:
  - Either closes the 'CIREN' if no/low airworthiness issue is identified
  - Issues a 'CREN' (Airworthiness Event Report) to EASA if potential airworthiness issue is identified



#### Continued Airworthiness process- Summary





#### Continued Airworthiness process – Decision Matrix



Criticality	Required Action
I	Immediate action before the next flight
I	Action in X days/weeks lead time
III	Necessary action to reduce the risk
IV	Acceptable risk

Does not include application of CM PIFS-011



# EASA Certification Memo CM–PIFS-011

- Specific to helicopter operation
- Based on the reality that some Minor engine failures can create an aircraft Unsafe situation
- Safran Helicopter Engines implemented a process that meets EASA expectations, with a close coordination with airframer:
  - Cooperate with the airframer to investigate/allocate the cause and assess the risk on the fleet
  - Assess the risk <u>at helicopter level</u> in operational conditions
  - Define a reaction time, based on this risk
  - Define associated action plan



# Some challenges to perform continued airworthiness

- Getting operators declaration of in-service events, and subsequent information
- Getting hardware returned to factory for investigation
- Setting contributions from equipment suppliers
- Knowing the detailed fleet operating hours in order to perform statistic evaluation
- Getting actual experience of hardware from repair shops (how it wears/fails)
- Understanding the failure scenario, and reasons for failing
- Implementing fixes quick enough worldwide when a real safety issue is confirmed
- Coordination with airframer to quote the risk





# LAST SLIDE

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