

# **Bell Helicopter** **TEXTRON**

A Subsidiary of Textron, Inc.

September 29, 2000

## **INFORMATION LETTER 47-00-9**

**TO: All Owners/Operators of Bell 47 Series Helicopters**

**SUBJECT: BELL 47 MAIN ROTOR GRIPS**

This information letter is issued to provide a status update of the current progress with the Bell 47 main rotor grip. Bell Helicopter, in working with the FAA, has not been successful in developing an alternate means of compliance that would be suitable to all parties for the Bell 47 main rotor grips. However, the FAA has approved an alternate means of compliance to AD 2000-18-51 to help the operators.

To verify if those alternate means of compliance (AMOC) can be applied to your helicopter grips, contact:

Mr. Marc Belhumeur  
Aviation Safety Engineer  
Tel: (817) 222-5177  
FAX (817) 222-5783

Due to the expected demand resulting from the FAA AD, Bell Helicopter is working to expedite the grip manufacture and procurement process. Operators are encouraged to place an order with their approved Bell Helicopter parts supplier in order to reduce the delay in obtaining needed parts.

Recent periodicals have made statements indicating "...an analysis of the field service data revealed fatigue cracks in 70% of the grips inspected." Bell Helicopter takes exception to these statements, as there have only been two incidents of recorded "failures" in which both cases have questionable histories.

We will continue to update you as supply of grips improve.