

Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

A Subsidiary of Textron, Inc.

August 3, 2001

INFORMATION LETTER 47-01-10

TO: All Owners/Operators of Bell 47 Helicopters.

SUBJECT: Maintaining Aging Aircraft

Bell Helicopter has been advised that during a 1200-hour inspection, severe internal corrosion was detected on the mast of a Bell 47 helicopter. This Information Letter is issued as a reminder to all Bell 47 maintainers to be particularly diligent when performing maintenance or overhaul tasks on aging aircraft.

Helicopter owners, operators and maintainers are reminded that when performing maintenance tasks, the maintainer is responsible to ensure that inspection tasks are extended as necessary to ensure continued airworthiness. Aircraft manufacturer's maintenance procedures are developed to ensure the minimum necessary level of maintenance for continued airworthiness.

An aircraft's condition and continuing airworthiness is directly dependent upon a variety of factors. These may include, but are not limited to, operating environment, use or application, modes of operation, dealer or customer modification of the aircraft, use of special or added equipment, annual hours of use, severity of use, operator training and skill, proper and timely lubrication, frequency and quality of maintenance, including preventive maintenance, proper problem diagnosis and repair, possible accidents or abuse, protection from weather and corrosive materials. Bell Helicopter recommends that when conducting any scheduled or special maintenance task, maintainers are cautioned to be aware of the requirement to inspect for reject conditions that may not be defined in detail in the maintenance task description.

Bell Helicopter Product Support Engineering remains available for consultation and expanding your maintenance procedures.