

Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

Bell Helicopter Textron Inc.
A Subsidiary of Textron Inc.

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February 26, 1996

Information Letter 47-96-5

To: All Bell 47 Series Owners and Operators

Subject: MAIN ROTOR BLADE FILL/FAIR COMPOUND

This Information letter is issued to advise that a recently manufactured group of new main rotor blades for the Bell 47, with serial numbers listed below, may have been produced without the filling compound typical of blades manufactured prior to 1995.

While this reduction in filling compound does not result in any structural deficiency and is not a safety issue, several customers have commented that the cosmetic appearance of the blade is unsatisfactory. The absence of the filling-fairing compound may also be a contributing factor in a reported reduction in the blade's operational performance.

In response to customer comments, Bell Helicopter has decided that all future model 47 main rotor blades will be produced in a manner which includes the fill and fair procedure typical of the earlier vintage blades. Additionally, Bell Helicopter is offering those customers who purchased the affected main rotor blades listed below to have their blades refinished at their local BHT approved Main Rotor Blade Customer Service Facility under warranty at their convenience provided that the refinishing is completed no later than 31 December 1996.

Although the fill, fair, and repaint procedure is quite easily accomplished, the results may alter the product balance features of the blade thus adversely affecting the flying characteristics of the rotor. Therefore the rework procedure can only be performed at a BHT approved Main Rotor Blade Customer Service Facility who will balance the blade to the master following its refurbishment as part of the warranty rework.

Additionally, some purchasers of the affected main rotor blades have indicated that some additional span-balance weights were shipped in the container with the blades. These weights should not be required for rotor smoothing since all blades left the factory balanced to the master. The practice of supplying these additional weights has been discontinued.

For a list of the approved Main Rotor Blade CSF's, or for any additional information please contact:

Bell Helicopter Textron
12,800 rue de l'Avenir
Mirabel, Quebec
Canada J7J 1R4

Attn: Product Support Engineering
Light Helicopters

Telephone: (800) 361-9305 from Canada
(800) 363-8023 from U.S.A.
(514) 437-2862
Facsimile: (514) 433-0272

The following M/R Blades are affected by this Information Letter:

Main Rotor Blade 047-110-250-021, serial numbers:

A-21 through A-27; A-34 through A-71; A-82 through A-89; A-100, A-101, A-103 through A-105; A-120 through A-124; A-136 through A-141; A-155, A-169 through A-171.

Main Rotor Blade 047-110-250-023, serial numbers:

A-2 through A-6; A-13, A-14, A-19, A-24, A-25, A-46 through A-50; A-72 through A-81; A-90 through A-99; A-106 through A-119; A-125 through A-135; A-142 through A-161.

Bell Helicopter regrets any inconveniences this matter has caused.