Bell Helicopter TEXTRON

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NOVEMBER 1, 1977

OSN 47-77-2

TO: ALL MODEL 47 OPERATORS

SUBJECT: BREAKAWAY FUEL VENT VALVE FOR CRASHWORTHY FUEL

SYSTEM

AN INSTANCE HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION WHEREBY A BREAK-AWAY FUEL VENT VALVE, P/N 47-682-226-1, HAD UNKNOWINGLY BEEN FRACTURED AND SEALED, PREVENTING CROSSFEED BETWEEN THE TWO TANKS. A TANK WITH A SEALED VALVE BUILDS UP PRESSURE WHEN REFUELING FROM THE OPPOSITE TANK AND WILL NOT FILL. DURING OPERATION A SEALED VENT VALVE WOULD CREATE A VACUUM IN THE TANK, KEEPING THE FUEL FROM FEEDING.

THE VALVE IS DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND A BENDING LOAD OF 100 INCH-POUNDS, WHICH IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE FOR NORMAL APPLICATION.

CARE MUST BE TAKEN DURING INSTALLATION AND/OR MAINTENANCE TO INSURE THE VALVES ARE NOT SUBJECTED TO EXCESSIVE BENDING LOADS.

DO NOT USE THE VALVE OR VENT LINES AS A HAND HOLD.

A VALVE THAT HAS BEEN FRACTURED AND SEALED WILL APPEAR TO BE "COCKED", AND THE MATING SURFACE AROUND THE VALVE WILL BE UNEVEN. IF THE VALVE CONDITION CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED AFTER VISUALLY INSPECTING THE MATING SURFACE REMOVE THE VENT LINE AND LOOK INTO THE VALVE TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT IT IS SEALED.

THOMAS K. FLEMING

MANAGER

PRODUCT SUPPORT ENGINEERING