

# Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

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## **OPERATIONS SAFETY NOTICE**

25 SEPTEMBER 1978

OSN-47-78-2

TO: ALL MODEL 47 OPERATORS

SUBJECT: NEW TAIL ROTOR HUB AND BLADES

THIS IS A REMINDER THAT THE MODEL 47 SERIES HELICOPTERS (47G-2A, 47G-2A1, 47G-3, 47G-3B, 47G-3B1, 47G-3B2, 47G-4, 47G-4A, 47G-5, 47J-2 AND 47J-2A) HAVE A NEW TAIL ROTOR HUB AND BLADE REQUIRED BY SERVICE BULLETIN 47-76-2 DATED 2-13-76. THIS NEW DESIGN HAS A GREATER FATIGUE MARGIN AND THE RETIREMENT LIFE OF THE BLADES IS PRESENTLY 2500 HOURS. THE OLD DESIGN BLADE IS LIMITED TO 600 HOURS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CRACKS OR FAILURES REPORTED ON THE NEW BLADES.

WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL RECENT ACCIDENTS APPARENTLY DUE TO OLD DESIGN TAIL ROTOR BLADE FAILURE, THEREFORE, BHT STRONGLY URGES THAT OPERATORS RE-EVALUATE THEIR POSITION IN REFERENCE TO S.B. 47-76-2. KITS MAY BE ORDERED FROM YOUR NORMAL BHT SPARES OUTLET. REFER TO S.I. 428 FOR PARTS REQUIRED FOR YOUR PARTICULAR MODEL(S).

BHT HAS ESTABLISHED A NEW PROGRAM TO CERTIFY MODELS 47G AND 47G-2 WITH THE NEW DESIGN HUB AND BLADES. THIS WILL REQUIRE SPECIAL STRAIN GAGE FLIGHT TESTS WHICH BELL WILL CONDUCT TO ACHIEVE CERTIFICATION. OPERATORS OF BELL MODEL 47G'S AND 47G-2'S WILL BE ADVISED WHEN CERTIFICATION IS ACHIEVED.

IN THE MEANTIME, OPERATORS OF 47G'S, G-2'S AND OTHER 47 MODELS INCORPORATING THE (OLD TYPE) TAIL ROTORS MUST COMPLY WITH SERVICE BULLETIN NO. 143SB AND THE APPLICABLE MAINTENANCE AND OVERHAUL INSTRUCTIONS, CONCERNING FREQUENT INSPECTION AND LIFE.