

Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

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OPERATIONS SAFETY NOTICE

FEBRUARY 22, 1989

OSN 47-89-8

TO: OWNERS/OPERATORS OF ALL MODEL 47 AND ALL MODEL
HELICOPTERS EQUIPPED WITH MAIN ROTOR BLADE ASSEMBLY
P/N 47-110-120-50

SUBJECT: AIRWORTHINESS OF MAIN ROTOR BLADE ASSEMBLIES, P/N
47-110-120-50

BHTI HAS RECEIVED REPORTS THAT BOGUS WOODEN MODEL 47 MAIN ROTOR BLADES ARE BEING MANUFACTURED AND SOLD TO UNSUSPECTING OWNERS/OPERATORS. THESE BOGUS MAIN ROTOR BLADES ARE HILLER BLADES TO WHICH AN 11.5 INCH EXTENSION HAS BEEN BUTT WELDED TO THE SPAR.

TRANSPORT CANADA HAS INVESTIGATED THIS SITUATION AND DECLARED THE MODIFIED HILLER BLADES AS BOGUS AND NONAIRWORTHY. TRANSPORT CANADA HAS ISSUED AN AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE WHICH REQUIRES A RADIOGRAPHIC INSPECTION OF BLADES IF AUTHENTICITY IS IN QUESTION. RADIOGRAPHIC INSPECTION OF BLADES SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) SUPPORT THE BLADE IN A HORIZONTAL POSITION.
- 2) PLACE RADIATION SOURCE AT A POSITION 11.2 INCHES INBOARD OF THE ROTOR TIP, 2 INCHES AFT OF THE LEADING EDGE AND PERPENDICULAR TO THE SURFACE.
- 3) CENTER THE RADIOGRAPHIC FILM AT A POSITION 11.2 INCHES INBOARD OF THE TIP TO COVER 6 INCHES ON EACH SIDE OF THIS POINT.

A BUTT WELD, IF PRESENT. WILL HAVE HAD ITS WELD BEAD REMOVED IN AN ATTEMPT TO CAMOUFLAGE ITS EXISTENCE; HOWEVER, IT IS DISCERNIBLE BY A PROPERLY APPLIED RADIOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUE.

INSPECTION ACCOMPLISHMENT SHOULD BE ENTERED INTO HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE LOGS AND BLADES SHOWING A BUTT WELD OR ANY CRACKS MUST BE REMOVED FROM SERVICE.

BHTI BRINGS THIS SITUATION TO YOUR ATTENTION IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY AND TO ASSIST IN CHECKING THE AUTHENTICITY OF MAIN ROTOR BLADES.