



EMERGENCY AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued pursuant to Canadian Aviation Regulation (CAR) 521.427. No person shall conduct a take-off or permit a take-off to be conducted in an aircraft that is in their legal custody and control, unless the requirements of CAR 605.84 pertaining to ADs are met. Standard 625 - Aircraft Equipment and Maintenance Standards Appendix H provides information concerning alternative means of compliance (AMOC) to ADs.

Number:

CF-2015-16R1

Effective Date:

6 August 2015

ATA:

64

Type Certificate:

H-107

Subject:

Tail Rotor - Pitch Link Spherical Bearing Accelerated Wear

Revision:

Supersedes AD CF-2015-16, issued on 2 July 2015.

Applicability:

Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited (BHTC) model 429 helicopters, serial numbers 57001 and subsequent.

Compliance:

As indicated below, unless already accomplished.

Background:

In service reports showed that the tail rotor pitch link spherical bearings have experienced early and accelerated wear. On three occasions, bearings have been found worn beyond limits during pre-flight inspection, showing a radial and axial play that was easily detectable. In one case, the spherical bearing had separated from the tail rotor pitch link, resulting in damage to the tail rotor blade pitch horn assembly. In another case, the spherical bearing was inspected and found acceptable during a maintenance inspection which occurred 1.2 hours air time before it was found worn beyond limits during pre-flight inspection.

An undetected worn bearing could lead to pitch link failure, resulting in loss of controllability of the helicopter.

The original issue of this AD stated that it was applicable to helicopters that have accumulated 50 hours air time or more. There was a possibility that some operators would conclude that no action was required for low time helicopters. This revision of the AD includes changes to the Applicability and Corrective Actions to clarify that all model 429 helicopters require recurring inspection.

This AD is considered an interim action and further AD action may follow.

Corrective Actions:

1. Within 10 hours air time from the effective date of this AD, or before exceeding 60 hours air time since new, whichever occurs later, inspect the tail rotor pitch link spherical bearings and replace the tail rotor pitch link assembly as applicable, in accordance with BHTC Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 429-15-16, dated 18 February 2015, or later revision approved by the Chief, Continuing Airworthiness, Transport Canada.
2. Subsequently, at intervals not exceeding 50 hours air time, repeat the actions specified in the Corrective Actions section, paragraph 1 of this AD.

Authorization:

For the Minister of Transport,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Philip Tang
Acting Chief, Continuing Airworthiness
Issued on 6 August 2015

Contact:

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e-mail [REDACTED] or any Transport Canada Centre.