



Michael J. Hodges
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region Office - Office of Aviation Safety

Date: January 10, 2025

Subject: CEN25LA067

Contact: Thom Webster
Senior Technical Investigator
Robinson Helicopter Company

Thom was asked by the NTSB investigator-in-charge, via email, if there were any published wind limitations for starting and takeoff in the R-44 Pilot's Operating Handbook and Rotorcraft Flight Manual.

Thom reported via email that there are no published wind limitations for starting and takeoff for the R-44. Thom further reported that in the R-44 Pilot's Operating Handbook and Rotorcraft Flight Manual, on page 5.1, it states that, "in ground effect hover controllability has been substantiated in 17 knot wind from any direction up to 9,600 feet density altitude."

*** Nothing Follows ***



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Contact: Anthony DeWolf
Chief Pilot
Timberview Helicopters, Inc. / Galveston Helicopter Adventures, LLC

Anthony was asked by the NTSB investigator-in-charge, via email, if there were any wind limitations for their operation, for starting and takeoff in the R-44 series helicopters.

Anthony reported that they typically won't fly if winds are above 30 knots and if the gust spread is more than 20 knots difference. He further added that each pilot has their own limitations up to that point.

He reported that they normally talk about winds if it is predicted to be a higher wind day and that the winds are typically 15 to 25 knots in Galveston, Texas.

*** Nothing Follows ***