



DATE: December 10, 2010

AD #: 2010-26-52

Background

This superseding EAD is prompted by another incident in which the tail rotor blade (blade) tip weight separated from a blade during flight causing vibration. This unsafe condition led to the determination that additional blades could be affected and should be added to the applicability. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent loss of the blade tip weight, loss of a blade, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

On October 31, 2007, the FAA issued AD 2007-19-53 which requires, before further flight, removing and replacing each affected blade with an airworthy blade. That action was prompted by three reports of blade tip weights being slung from the blades during flights, causing significant vibration.

Relevant Service Information

We have reviewed the following revised BHT Alert Service Bulletins (ASBs), all dated November 22, 2010 except where noted otherwise. Each Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) contains an RBI letter that adds blade serial numbers to the RBI list.

- No. 204-07-61, Revision A, dated September 19, 2007, for Model 204 helicopters;
- No. 205-07-95, Revision B, for Model 205 helicopters;
- No. 205B-07-46, Revision B, for Model 205B helicopters;
- No. 212-07-125, Revision B, for Model 212 helicopters;
- No. 412CF-07-123, Revision B, for Model 412CF helicopters;
- No. 412-07-123, Revision B, for Model 412 and 412EP helicopters.

FAA's Determination

We are issuing this AD because we evaluated all information and determined the unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other helicopters of these same type designs.

AD Requirements

Since the unsafe condition is likely to exist or develop on other helicopters of these same type designs, this AD requires, before further flight, unless already accomplished, replacing any affected blade with an airworthy blade. An airworthy blade is one that has a part number and a serial number that is not listed in the Applicability section of this AD.

Authority for this Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, Section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

We are issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701, “General requirements.” Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

Pursuant to this Authority delegated to me by the Administrator, we are hereby issuing this EAD.

2010-26-52 BELL HELICOPTER TEXTRON, INC.: Directorate Identifier 2010-SW-109-AD. Supersedes Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2007-19-53, Amendment 39-15265, Docket No. FAA 2007-0180, Directorate Identifier 2007-SW-37-AD.

Effective Date

(a) This Emergency AD (EAD) is effective upon receipt.

Other Affected ADs

(b) This EAD supersedes AD 2007-19-53.

Applicability

(c) Applicability: Model 204B, 205A, 205A-1, 205B, 210, 212, 412, 412CF, and 412EP helicopters, certificated in any category, with a tail rotor blade (blade) having a part number and serial number, installed, as follows:

Part Number	Serial Number
204-011-702-015	AFS-12703, AFS-12893, AFS-23525, or AFS-23573
204-011-702-121	A-22020
212-010-750-105FM	A-10090, A-10836, A-11207, or A-11332
212-010-750-113	A-14953, A-15090, or CS-12702

212-010-750-113FM	A-12240, A-12296, A-12640, A-12670, A-12789, A-13033, A-13096, A-13134, A-13199, A-13264, or A-13366
*212-010-750-105	A-11923
*212-010-750-105FM	A-10857, A-11617, A-11828, A-12043, A-12091
*212-010-750-113FM	A-12286, A-12398, A-13088, A-13106, A-13539
212-010-750-133	A-15602
Note 1: The * indicates the newly added part-number and serial-numbered blades.	

Unsafe Condition

(d) This AD was prompted by another incident in which the tail rotor blade (blade) tip weight separated from a blade during flight causing vibration. This unsafe condition led to the determination that additional blades could be affected and should be added to the applicability. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent loss of the blade tip weight, loss of a blade, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

Compliance

(e) Before further flight, unless accomplished previously.

(f) Replace any affected blade with an airworthy blade. An airworthy blade is one that has a part number and a serial number that is not listed in the Applicability section of this AD.

Special Flight Permit

(g) Special flight permits will not be issued.

Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(h) The Manager, Rotorcraft Certification Office, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this EAD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the Rotorcraft Certification Office, send it to the attention of the person identified in the Other Information section of this EAD.

Note 2: Before using any approved AMOC, we request that you notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, your local Flight Standards District Office.

Other Information

(i)(1) For further information about this AD, contact: Martin R. Crane, Aerospace Engineer, Rotorcraft Directorate, Rotorcraft Certification Office, FAA, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; telephone (817) 222-5170; fax (817) 222-5783; e-mail: Martin.R.Crane@faa.gov.

(2) For copies of the service information referenced in this AD, contact: Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc., P.O. Box 482, Fort Worth, TX 76101, telephone (817) 280-3391, fax (817) 280-6466, or at <http://www.bellcustomer.com/files/>.

Subject

(j) The Joint Aircraft System Component Code is: 6410 Tail Rotor Blade.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas on December 10, 2010.

Lance T. Gant,
Acting Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate
Aircraft Certification Service.