



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-2016-07

Effective Date:

18 March 2016

ATA:

32

Type Certificate:

H-107

Subject:

Nose Landing Gear Assembly – Service Life Reduction

Applicability:

Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited model 429, serial numbers 57001 through 57265 where the helicopter is equipped with wheeled landing gear.

Compliance:

Within 60 days from the effective date of this AD, unless already accomplished.

Background:

Bell Helicopter Textron Canada has released Alert Service Bulletin 429-15-24 to inform operators of changes to the airworthiness limitations for the affected helicopters. Details of the changed limitations are contained in revision 24 of the Maintenance Manual, Chapter 4, Airworthiness Limitations Schedule (ALS). The change replaces vendor part numbered components with the Bell Helicopter next-higher assembly part number, reduces the Retirement Index Number (RIN) life of the assembly and adds a life limitation that is based on air time hours.

The component added to the Airworthiness Limitations Schedule for the purpose of implementing a reduced service life and its airworthiness life in air time hours and RIN is Nose Landing Gear Assembly part number (P/N) 429-336-100-101 limited to 4500 hours or 50,000 RIN. It is now being introduced to the ALS in place of the nose landing gear main fitting to bellcrank bolt M084-20H125-101, previously limited to 50,000 RIN, and nose landing gear main fitting M084-20H011-107, previously limited to 130,000 RIN.

The ALS revision also introduces a new life-limited assembly, Nose Landing Gear Assembly (P/N) 429-336-100-103. This new assembly is a product improvement being installed on new production helicopters which may also be retrofitted to in-service helicopters. It is not the target of this airworthiness directive.

Failure to replace components prior to the established airworthiness limitations could result in an unsafe condition.

Corrective Actions:

1. Insert the new Chapter 4, Airworthiness Limitations Schedule, Revision 24 dated 12 June 2015, in the operator's copy of the Bell 429 Maintenance Manual BHT-429-MM.
2. Review and update the historical record cards for the affected components noted above and the Transport Canada approved Maintenance Schedule for the helicopter to reflect the revised airworthiness life listed in Revision 24 of Chapter 4, Airworthiness Limitations Schedule of the Bell 429 Maintenance Manual, BHT-429-MM. Compliance with future Transport Canada approved revisions to the life limit for the affected components also meets the requirements of this AD.

Authorization:

For the Minister of Transport,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Rémy Knoerr
Chief, Continuing Airworthiness
Issued on 4 March 2016

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