AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

For the reasons set out in the background section, the CASA delegate whose signature appears below issues the following Airworthiness Directive (AD) under subregulation 39.1 (1) of CASR 1998. The AD requires that the action set out in the requirement section (being action that the delegate considers necessary to correct the unsafe condition) be taken in relation to the aircraft or aeronautical product mentioned in the applicability section: (a) in the circumstances mentioned in the requirement section; and (b) in accordance with the instructions set out in the requirement section; and (c) at the time mentioned in the compliance section.

Bell Helicopter Textron Canada (BHTC) 407 Series Helicopters

AD/BELL 407/26 Landing Gear Cross Tubes 5/2004

Applicability: All Model 407 helicopters.

Note: This Directive applies to both Bell Helicopter cross tube assemblies and BHT's approved production and spare alternate cross tube assemblies from Aeronautical Accessories Incorporated (AAI) that are listed in Chapter 4 of the Maintenance Manual.

Requirement: Create a historical service record for each identified cross tube assembly indicating the new airworthiness life of 5,000 RIN, and assign a RIN to each existing and new cross tube assembly, in accordance with BHTC Alert Service Bulletin 407-03-59, dated 15 October 2003.

Note: Transport Canada AD CF-2004-03 refers.

Compliance: Within 100 hours time in service after 13 May 2004 or before 30 June 2004, whichever occurs first, unless already accomplished.

This Airworthiness Directive becomes effective on 13 May 2004.

Background: The manufacturer has determined that run-on landings impose a high stress on landing gear cross tubes. A run-on landing is defined by Bell Helicopter Textron Canada (BHTC) as one where the forward ground travel after ground contact of the helicopter is greater than three (3) feet with weight on the skids. To prevent possible cross tube failure BHTC has introduced the life limitation of 5,000 RIN (Retirement Index Number).

David Villiers
Delegate of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority

2 April 2004

The above AD is notified in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on 21 April 2004.