SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NRC published a notice of opportunity for public comment on this RIS in the Federal Register (83 FR 26611) on June 8, 2018. The agency received comments from one commenter. The staff considered all comments, which resulted in changes to the RIS. The evaluation of these comments and the resulting changes to the RIS are discussed in a publicly available memorandum in ADAMS under Accession No. ML18269A255. As noted in 83 FR 20858 (May 8, 2018), this document is being published in the Rules section of the Federal Register to comply with publication requirements under Title 1 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of March 2019.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Tara Inverso,
Chief, ROP Support and Generic Communications Branch, Division of Inspection and Regional Support, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 2019–06373 Filed 4–1–19; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited (BHTC) Model 429 helicopters. This AD requires inspecting each main rotor pitch link rod end bearing assembly (bearing) for wear and play. This AD was prompted by reports of worn bearings. The actions of this AD are intended to prevent an unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective May 7, 2019. The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain document listed in this AD as of May 7, 2019.

ADDRESSES: For service information identified in this final rule, contact Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited, 12,800 Rue de l’Avenir, Mirabel, Quebec J7J1R4; telephone (450) 437–2862 or (800) 363–8023; fax (450) 433–0272; or at http://www.bellcustomer.com/files/. You may review the referenced service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. It is also available on the internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2017–0433.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2017–0433; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this AD, the Bell Helicopter Alert Service Bulletin into its incorporation by reference, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations (phone: 800–647–5527) is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Hatfield, Aviation Safety Engineer, Safety Management Section, Rotorcraft Standards Branch, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone (817) 222–5110; email david.hatfield@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

On March 8, 2018, at 83 FR 9818, the Federal Register published our notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), which proposed to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to BHTC Model 429 helicopters, serial numbers 57001 and larger, with a bearing part number (P/N) 429–010–433–101/–103 for play and potential wear and replacing it if necessary, within 30 days from the effective date of its AD and at subsequent intervals not to exceed 50 hours air time.

Comments

After our NPRM was published, we received a comment from one commenter.

Request

The commenter questioned the need for the proposed AD. The commenter stated that Bell Helicopter Alert Service Bulletin 429–11–03, which was issued in 2011, already requires inspections of the pitch link bearings. We disagree. While an operator may incorporate the procedures in the Bell Helicopter Alert Service Bulletin into its maintenance program, not all operators are required to do so. In order for the corrective actions in the service information to become mandatory, and to correct the unsafe condition identified in the NPRM, the FAA must issue an AD.

FAA’s Determination

These helicopters have been approved by the aviation authority of Canada and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to our bilateral agreement with Canada, Transport Canada, its technical representative, has notified us of the unsafe condition described in the Transport Canada AD. We are issuing this AD because we evaluated all information provided by Transport Canada, reviewed the relevant information, considered the comments
received, and determined the unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other helicopters of these same type designs and that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD requirements as proposed.

Differences Between This AD and the EASA AD

This AD requires initially inspecting the bearing within 20 hours time-in-service, while the Transport Canada AD requires the initial inspection within 30 days.

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51


This service information is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD affects 64 helicopters of U.S. Registry and that labor costs average $85 per work-hour. Based on these estimates, we expect the following costs:

- Inspecting the bearing requires 2 work-hours and no parts for a cost of $170 per helicopter and $1,080 for the U.S. fleet per inspection cycle.
- Replacing a –101 bearing requires 1 work-hour and $3,560 for parts for a U.S. fleet per inspection cycle.

This AD defines the unsafe condition as a worn bearing. This condition could result in failure of a bearing, which could lead to reduced helicopter handling, damage to other components, and subsequent loss of helicopter control.

(c) Effective Date

This AD becomes effective May 7, 2019.

(d) Compliance

You are responsible for performing each action required by this AD within the specified compliance time unless it has already been accomplished prior to that time.

(e) Required Actions

Within 20 hours time-in-service (TIS) and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 50 hours TIS:

- Inspect the lower and upper pitch link rod ends for axial and radial bearing play by rolling the bearings through all angles, paying particular attention to the areas depicted in Figure 1 of Bell Helicopter Alert Service Bulletin 429–11–03, Revision A, dated January 13, 2015.

2. If there is any play in a bearing, remove the pitch link assembly and perform a dimensional inspection of the axial and radial bearing play. Measure the play at the angle that results in the maximum amount of play. Replace the rod end assembly before further flight if bearing play exceeds 0.010 inch for axial direction or 0.005 inch for radial direction.

(f) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Safety Management Section, Rotorcraft Standards Branch, FAA, may approve AMOCs for this AD. Send your proposal to: David Hatfield, Aviation Safety Engineer, Safety Management Section, Rotorcraft Standards Branch, FAA, 1801 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone (817) 222–5116; email 9-ASW-FTW-AMOC-Requests@faa.gov.

(2) For operations conducted under a 14 CFR part 91 operating certificate or under 14 CFR part 91, subpart K, we suggest that you notify your principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office or certificate holding district office, before operating any aircraft complying with this AD through an AMOC.

(g) Additional Information

The subject of this AD is addressed in Transport Canada AD No. CF–2016–39, dated December 12, 2016. You may view the Transport Canada AD on the internet at http://www.regulations.gov. For AMOCs, see the AD docket.

(h) Subject

Joint Aircraft Service Component (JASC) Code: 6200, Main Rotor System.

(i) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.
The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of certain documents listed in this AD as of May 7, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** For service information identified in this final rule, contact Airbus Helicopters, 2701 N Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75052; telephone (972) 641–0000 or (800) 232–0323; fax (972) 641–3775; or at http://www.helicopters.airbus.com/website/en/ref/Technical-Support_73.html. You may review the referenced service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. It is also available on the internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2017–1085.

**Examining the AD Docket**

You may examine the AD docket on the internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2017–1085; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this AD, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, any incorporated-by-reference service information, the economic evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations (phone: 800–647–5527) is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

David Hatfield, Aviation Safety Engineer, Safety Management Section, Rotorcraft Standards Branch, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone (817) 222–5110; email david.hatfield@faa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Discussion**

On September 10, 2018, at 83 FR 45578, the Federal Register published our notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), which proposed to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to Airbus Helicopters Model MBB–BK 117 A–1, MBB–BK 117 A–3, MBB–BK 117 A–4, MBB–BK 117 B–1, MBB–BK 117 B–2, MBB–BK 117 C–1, and MBB–BK 117 C–2 helicopters. This AD requires repetitive inspections of the tail rotor (T/R) gearbox housing. This AD was prompted by a report that a crack was found in a T/R gearbox housing. The actions of this AD are intended to correct an unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** This AD is effective May 7, 2019.

The EASA AD applies to Model MBB–BK117 C–2e helicopters, and this AD does not because it is not an FAA type-certificated model. The EASA AD allows a non-cumulative tolerance of 10 hours time-in-service for the inspections, and this AD does not. The EASA AD requires performing the inspection after a certain maintenance action and before a T/R gearbox housing is installed, and this AD does not.