

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

REGULATORY SUPPORT DIVISION
P.O. BOX 26460
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The following Airworthiness Directive issued by the Federal Aviation Administration in accordance with the provisions of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 39, applies to an aircraft model of which our records indicate you may be the registered owner. Airworthiness Directives affect aviation safety and are regulations which require immediate attention. You are cautioned that no person may operate an aircraft to which an Airworthiness Directive applies, except in accordance with the requirements of the Airworthiness Directive (reference 14 CFR part 39, subpart 39.3).

99-16-13 MD HELICOPTERS, INC.: Amendment 39-11248, Docket No. 98-SW-42-AD. Supersedes AD 97-13-09, Amendment 39-10056, Docket No. 96-SW-35-AD. Issued July 28, 1999.

Applicability: MD-900 helicopters, certificated in any category.

NOTE 1: This AD applies to each helicopter identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been otherwise modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For helicopters that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (d) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To establish appropriate life limits for various parts, accomplish the following:

- (a) On or before attaining the following life limits, remove from service:
 - (1) The non-rotating swashplate assembly, part number (P/N) 900C2010192-105, -106, -109, or -111, on or before 1,800 hours time-in-service (TIS).
 - (2) The collective drive link assembly, P/N 900C2010207-101, on or before 3,307 hours TIS.
 - (3) The self-aligning, spherical/slider main rotor bearing, P/N 900C3010042-103, on or before 2,030 hours TIS.
 - (4) The vertical stabilizer control system (VSCS) bellcrank assembly, P/N 900FP341712-103, and bellcrank arm, P/N 900F2341712-101, on or before 2,700 hours TIS.
- (b) On or before 100 hours TIS after July 10, 1997, or before October 31, 1999, whichever occurs first:

(1) For Model MD-900 helicopters with serial numbers (S/N) 900-00002 through 900-00012, apply the appropriate S/N to the mid-forward truss assembly, P/N 900F2401200-102, and the forward and aft deck-fitting assemblies, P/N 900F2401500-103 and 900F2401600-103.

(2) For Model MD-900 helicopters with S/N 900-00002 through 900-00048, apply S/N to the left and right VSCS bellcrank assemblies, P/N 900F2341712-101 and 900FP341712-103, and the mid-aft truss strut assembly, P/N 900F2401300-103.

(3) Apply the S/N as specified in paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this AD to the existing P/N in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of MDHS Service Bulletin No. 900-039, Revision 2, dated March 12, 1997.

(c) This AD revises the Airworthiness Limitations Section of the MD-900 Maintenance Manual by increasing the retirement lives for certain parts.

NOTE 2: The Airworthiness Limitations Section of the MD-900 Rotorcraft Maintenance Manual, Reissue 1, Revision 2, dated July 24, 1998, pertains to the subject of this AD.

(d) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office. Operators shall submit their requests through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may concur or comment and then send it to the Manager, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office.

NOTE 3: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office.

(e) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the helicopter to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

(f) The application of the serial numbers shall be done in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems Service Bulletin No. 900-039, Revision 2, dated March 12, 1997. This incorporation by reference of that document was previously approved by the Director of the Federal Register, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 5 CFR part 51, as of July 10, 1997 (62 FR 34163). Copies may be obtained from MD Helicopter, Inc., Attn: Customer Support Division, 5000 E. McDowell Rd., Mail Stop M615-GG, Mesa, Arizona 85215-9797, telephone 1-800-388-3378 or 480-891-6342, datafax 480-891-6782. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

(g) This amendment becomes effective on September 10, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Greg DiLibero, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood, California 90712, telephone (562) 627-5231, fax (562) 627-5210.