



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

April 17, 2013

In reply refer to: 120L-13-169

Mr. Roger Carlin
MD Helicopters, Inc.
4555 East McDowell Road
Mesa, AZ 85215-9734

Subject: Alternative Method of Compliance (AMOC) Approval Request to
Airworthiness Directive 2013-03-03

Reference: MD Helicopters, Inc. (MDHI) Letter 13-MDHI-001, dated March 11, 2013

Dear Mr. Carlin:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has received the reference letter requesting a global AMOC approval to Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2013-03-03, applicable to MDHI Models 500N, 600N and MD900 helicopters.

AD 2013-03-03 requires inspection and replacement of certain NOTAR fan blade tension-torsion (T-T) straps which can absorb moisture and lead to a reduced strength of these straps. Paragraph (e)(1) of the AD requires operators to determine the cure date of each of the thirteen T-T straps (per aircraft) within 6 months from the effective date of the AD. Furthermore, per AD paragraph (e)(1)(ii), operators who have installed affected T-T straps with less than five calendar years from the manufacturing date are required to mark the expiration date on the T-T strap face with permanent ink. Paragraph (e)(2) of the AD instructs operators on subsequent replacements that prior to the T-T strap installation, operators are to mark the expiration date based on when the T-T strap package was opened or five years from the manufacturer's cure date (if open package date was not recorded).

Service Bulletins (SB) SB500N-029R3 for the 500N helicopters, SB600N-046R3 for the 600N helicopters, and SB900-107R1 for the MD900 helicopters contain information related to the subject AD but are not incorporated by reference. The SBs allow the expiration date (defined as life limit in the SB) of the affected T-T straps to be measured from the "package open" date of the straps; and if this open date is unknown, then the expiration date is determined by the cure date marked on each part.

MDHI is requesting the following:

1. Allow operators who, prior to the effective date of AD 2013-03-03, have accomplished the aforementioned SBs and have marked, with permanent ink, the

expiration date of the affected T-T straps based on the date the T-T strap package was opened or the manufacturer's cure date of the T-T straps as an AMOC to paragraph (e)(1).

2. Request clarification that the expiration date cited in paragraph (e)(1)(ii) is defined as five years from the manufacturer's cure date for the T-T strap.

MDHI is making this request because operators who have accomplished the SBs prior to the AD effective date will be required, within six months from the AD effective date, to disassemble the NOTAR fan to record the cure date as required by paragraph (e)(1) of the AD. Since these operators have previously determined the expiration date by the open package date of the straps, those who have accomplished the SBs have met an acceptable level of safety to paragraph (e)(1) of the AD.

The FAA would like to clarify that the expiration date cited in paragraph (e)(1)(ii) is defined as five years from the manufacturer's cure date for the T-T strap.

The FAA has reviewed your request and approve the use of the date the T-T strap package was opened as an alternative to the manufacturer's cure date when showing compliance to paragraph (e)(1) of AD 2013-03-03 for operators who have accomplished these actions prior to the effective date of the AD 2013-03-03.

In accordance with FAA Order 8110.103, the following conditions apply:


1. All provisions of AD 2013-03-03 that are not specifically referenced above remain fully applicable and must be complied with accordingly.
2. This approval is applicable only to MDHI Models 500N, 600N and MD900 helicopters cited in AD 2013-03-03.
3. This approval is transferable with aircraft to other operators.
4. Before using this AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

This AMOC only applies to the FAA AD listed above. The FAA does not have the authority to approve this as an AMOC to any AD issued by another civil aviation authority (CAA). Approval of an AMOC to another CAA's AD must come from that CAA.

Should MDHI have any questions please contact this office, or Ms. Nenita Odesa at telephone number (562) 627-5234, FAX (562) 627-5210, or electronic mail at nenita.odesa@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:
Greg DiLibero

 Kevin Hull
Manager, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office

cc: Brent Bandley, ANM-100L
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Work Product: #2 – AMOC

