



EMERGENCY 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) with ADs.

Number:

CF-2026-12

Effective Date:

4 March 2026

ATA:

08

Type Certificate:

H-112

Subject:

Levelling and Weighing – Aft Moveable Ballast Box Assembly Door Hinge Failure

Applicability:

Bell Textron Canada Limited (Bell) model 505 helicopters, serial numbers 65011 and subsequent with ballast box assembly Part Number (P/N) SLS-706-201-207 and SLS-706-201-207FM.

Compliance:

Before further flight.

Background:

In February 2025, Bell discovered possible plastic deformation and/or improper pin engagement in the knuckles of the door hinge on the aft movable ballast box assembly (P/N: SLS-706-201-007). AD CF-2025-35, issued July 4th, 2025, mandated replacement of the hinge with a more robust hinge. Bell is now aware of a failure of the current hinge assembly, SLS 706-201-169. The failure was found during the post flight inspection while no defects were observed during the preflight inspections specified in BHT-505-FMS-7.

Failure of the ballast box door hinge may result in ballast weights departing from the box and striking the tail rotor assembly. Damage to the tail rotor could result in damage and/or departure of tail rotor blades, loss of tail rotor thrust, and severe vibrations that would lead to loss of control of the helicopter. This Emergency AD prohibits the use of the ballast box.

The corrective action in this AD is an interim action and further AD action may follow.

Corrective Actions:

1. As of the effective date of this AD, the use of the ballast weights within the aft movable ballast box assembly P/N SLS-706-201-207 and SLS-706-201-207FM, is prohibited.

Authorization:

For the Minister of Transport,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Jenny Young
Chief, Continuing Airworthiness
Issued on 3 March 2026

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