



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) to ADs.

Number:

CF-2016-39

Effective Date:

12 December 2016

ATA:

62

Type Certificate:

H-107

Subject:

Main Rotor – Pitch Link Bearing Wear

Applicability:

Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited (BHTC) model 429 helicopters, serial numbers 57001 and subsequent.

Compliance:

As indicated below, unless already accomplished.

Background:

There have been reports of worn main rotor pitch link rod end bearing assemblies part number (P/N) 429-010-433-101/-103 adversely affecting the handling qualities of the helicopter.

The existing scheduled inspection interval of 12-months/800 hours, is not sufficient to detect and correct a worn bearing under the currently observed wear rate. In addition, the combination of blade weight, positioning of the swashplate and the preload of the elastomers can make bearing play difficult to detect during a preflight exterior check. For this reason, the pre-flight check is not effective at detecting a worn bearing. It is therefore necessary to implement an effective inspection that is frequent enough to detect a worn bearing.

A worn bearing may fail, adversely affecting handling qualities, damaging adjacent components and leading to loss of control of the helicopter.

Corrective Actions:

Within 30 days from the effective date of this AD, inspect and if necessary replace the main rotor pitch link rod end bearing assemblies P/N 429-010-433-101/-103 in accordance with the requirements of BHTC Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 429-11-03 Revision A or later revisions approved by the Chief, Continuing Airworthiness, Transport Canada.

Subsequently, at intervals not exceeding 50 hours air time, repeat the inspection and, if necessary, replace the main rotor pitch link rod end bearing assemblies P/N 429-010-433-101/-103 in accordance with the requirements of BHTC ASB 429-11-03 Revision A or later revisions approved by the Chief, Continuing Airworthiness, Transport Canada.

Authorization:

For the Minister of Transport,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Rémy Knoerr
Chief, Continuing Airworthiness
Issued on 28 November 2016

Contact:

Mr. Ross McGowan, Continuing Airworthiness, Ottawa, telephone 1-888-663-3639, facsimile 613-996-9178 or e-mail AD-CN@tc.gc.ca or any Transport Canada Centre.