



EASA Safety Information Notice

No.: 2006 – 08
Issued: 30 August 2006

Subject: MD helicopters, Inc. MD900 Main Rotor Blade Retention Bolt Failure

Reference AD: FAA AD 2003-14-51

Introduction: EASA has recently been notified of the failure of a main rotor blade retention bolt (P/N 900R3100001-103) on a MD900 registered in the United Kingdom. There have been a number of previous failures of this bolt that have given rise to MDHI Service Bulletin SB900-092 Rev 1 and FAA Airworthiness Directive 2003-14-51 which became effective on 25 August 2003.

The most recent failure was found during the pilot's daily pre-flight inspection. The maintenance organisation had discovered failed bolts on three previous occasions, and so had retained the visual check as noted in SB900-092 Rev 1 during the pilot's daily check, for protrusion of the bolt. The pilot had noticed a slight increase in vibration the previous day, but it was below the threshold required to be reported.

The failed parts have been forwarded to MDHI for investigation. MDHI and the FAA are currently investigating this occurrence, but as yet no specific actions have been identified.

Applicability: MD Helicopters, Inc. (previously McDonnell Douglas Helicopters Systems) MD900 series helicopters

Recommendation: This notice is issued with the intent to raise the awareness of MD900 helicopter flight crews concerning the incident described above. For this reason, operators are recommended to carry out, before the first flight of each day, a visual inspection as described in paragraph (b) of the referenced FAA AD after the requirements of paragraph (e) or (f), as applicable, have been met.

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