

R22 SERVICE LETTER SL-21A
(Supersedes R22 SL-21)

DATE: 31 May 2002

TO: All R22 Owners, Operators, and Service Centers

SUBJECT: Main rotor blade sealant and filler cracking

ROTORCRAFT AFFECTED: R22s with P/N A016-2 main rotor blades

BACKGROUND: The painted two-part epoxy filler used as an aerodynamic-smoothing and water-blocking compound in main rotor blade root fitting and trim tab areas occasionally cracks. To verify cracks are superficial, perform following procedure.

COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE:

1. Remove crack indications by sanding with 320-grit or finer wet-or-dry sandpaper until cracked paint and filler is removed. Occasionally wiping with water helps highlight cracks. It is unnecessary to sand through to bare metal in most cases.

WARNING

Do not use chemical paint strippers or power tools

2. Sand spanwise with 400-grit or finer wet-or-dry sandpaper to remove all chordwise scratches.
3. Tap test suspect area to verify absence of voids.
4. Dye-penetrant inspect suspect area following penetrant manufacturer's instructions.
5. If no voids and no cracks in metal are found, prime and paint area with approved materials. Refer to R22 Maintenance Manual section 9.130.
6. Replace any blade exhibiting voids or metal cracks prior to further flight and contact RHC Technical Support for further instructions.