

R44

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SERVICE BULLETIN SB-24

DATE: 01 October 1997

TO: All R44 Owners, Operators, and Service Centers

SUBJECT: Removal of Paint from Tail Rotor Gearbox Attachment Surfaces

ROTORCRAFT AFFECTED: R44 Helicopters S/N 0001 thru 0374 except S/Ns 0253, 0331, 0343, 0358, 0363, and 0365

TIME OF COMPLIANCE: Within next 25 flight hours or by 31 Oct 97, whichever occurs first.

BACKGROUND: RHC has received reports of looseness between the tail rotor gearbox and the aft bulkhead casting on the tailcone. The cause of looseness has been determined to be paint between the gearbox and bulkhead casting which wears away causing loss of clamp-up.

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COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE:

1. Remove tail rotor gearbox per R44 Maintenance Manual (MM) Section 7.410 steps c, e, f, and g. (It is not necessary to remove tail rotor from gearbox.)
2. Carefully remove all paint from contact surfaces between aft bulkhead casting and gearbox using a method that leaves a smooth finish (A razor blade held perpendicular to the surface works well).
3. Clean and visually inspect gearbox mounting holes for elongation and mounting surfaces for wear. If hole elongation or wear is found, contact RHC technical support.
4. Install tail rotor gearbox per R44 MM Section 7.420, except torque the four NAS1352-5H12P attachment screws to 200 in-lb.
5. Touch-up prime and paint exposed bare metal areas on gearbox and bulkhead casting.

Approximate Cost:

Labor: 2 manhours

THE DESIGN ENGINEERING ASPECTS OF THIS BULLETIN HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATIONS AND ARE FAA APPROVED.