

R44 SERVICE BULLETIN SB-83

DATE: 30 May 2012

TO: R44 and R44 II owners, operators, and maintenance personnel

SUBJECT: Tail Rotor Blade Fatigue Cracks

ROTORCRAFT AFFECTED: R44 and R44 II helicopters with P/N C029-1 or C029-2 tail rotor blades installed.

TIME OF COMPLIANCE: Within next 10 flight hours or by 30 June 2012, whichever occurs first.

BACKGROUND: RHC has received reports of P/N C029-1 & C029-2 tail rotor blades with a fatigue crack at the leading edge. The cracks were caused by high fatigue stresses during maneuvers with large left pedal inputs. Blade P/N C029-3 incorporates design features to reduce fatigue stresses. This bulletin requires the addition of a Special Pilot Caution to the Pilot's Operating Handbook until P/N C029-3 tail rotor blades are installed. (C029-3 blades require a G062-1 hub assembly.)

COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE:

1. Verify P/N of tail rotor blades installed on helicopter.
2. If tail rotor blade P/N is C029-1 or C029-2, insert enclosed Special Pilot Caution (page 2 of this bulletin) as the first sheet of the Pilot's Operating Handbook.

NOTE: Special Pilot Caution may be removed from Pilot's Operating Handbook following installation of C029-3 tail rotor blades.

Approximate Cost:

Parts: None Required (Special Pilot Caution included as part of Bulletin)

Labor: 0.2 man-hour.

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R44 SB-83

SPECIAL PILOT CAUTION

To be inserted as the first sheet of the R44 or R44 II Pilot's Operating Handbook for all aircraft with C029-1 or C029-2 tail rotor blades installed.

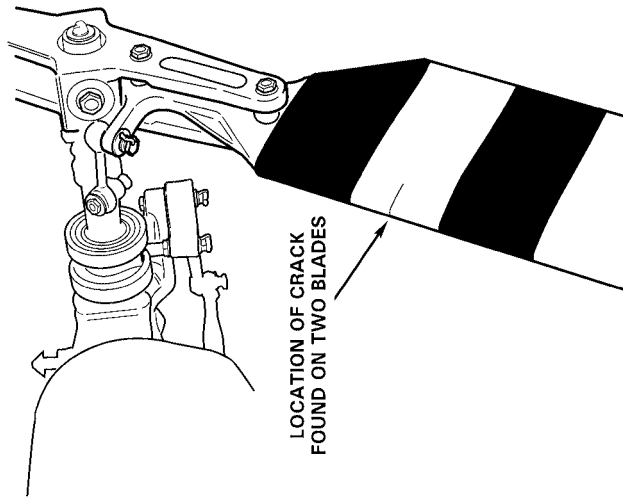
Also distribute to all pilots flying these aircraft.

Date: 30 May 2012

Cracks have been found in C029-2 tail rotor blades at the leading edge in the most inboard white paint stripe (see figure). The cracks were found by pilots during preflight checks. Cracks are caused by high fatigue stresses during maneuvers with large left pedal inputs. C029-1 blades have the same construction and therefore would also be susceptible to cracking.

Prior to each flight, inspect leading edges of tail rotor blades for cracks. Wipe blades clean if necessary to make sure potential cracks are visible.

To reduce fatigue stress damage to the blades, avoid maneuvers which require large left pedal inputs.



This page may be removed from the Pilot's Operating Handbook following installation of C029-3 tail rotor blades.

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