

## **Safety Notice SN-33**

Issued: March 1998    Revised: July 2013

### DRIVE BELT SLACK

R22 and R44 drive belts must have the proper slack prior to engine start. Belts which are too loose may jump out of their sheave grooves during engine start while clutch is engaging.

1. During preflight, with clutch disengaged, press in on belts with fingers just above fan scroll. Verify belts deflect approximately 1½ inches (4 cm). If belts are significantly looser than this, have actuator adjusted prior to engine start.
2. After engine start, engage clutch and verify rotor turns within 5 seconds. If rotor does not turn within 5 seconds, shut down and have actuator adjusted prior to flight.

New drive belts may be tight and cause the rotor to turn during engine start. This places unnecessary strain on the starter and drive system. If necessary, stretch new belts as follows:

1. During shutdown, do not disengage clutch.
2. After battery switch is off, put clutch switch in DISENGAGE position. If the clutch switch is left in ENGAGE position, the tachometers still draw power and can drain the battery.
3. Switch battery on and allow clutch to disengage during next preflight.