

R66 SERVICE BULLETIN SB-40

DATE: 6 January 2022

TO: R66 Owners, Operators, and Maintenance Personnel

SUBJECT: F029-1 Tail Rotor Blade Cracks

EFFECTIVITY: P/N F029-1 tail rotor blade S/Ns 2410 thru 2589.

Affected blades were factory-installed on R66 Helicopter S/Ns 1035 thru 1090, except 1039, 1067, 1076, 1077, and 1081.

Affected blades were also shipped as spares from January 2021 thru November 2021.

TIME OF COMPLIANCE:

Part A: Within next 10 flight hours or by 31 January 2022, whichever occurs first.

Part B: By 31 December 2022.

BACKGROUND: RHC has received reports of R44 tail rotor blades with a spanwise corrosion crack along the leading edge of the blade. The blades were manufactured from two Lots of skin material with a suspected heat treat anomaly. Affected F029-1 blades have skins made from the same Lots of material. Affected blades must be removed from service. For continued operation until blades are replaced, additional pilot preflight inspection is required.

COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE:

PART A: If helicopter is equipped with one or more affected tail rotor blades, insert enclosed Special Tail Rotor Preflight Inspection (page 3 of this bulletin) before the title page of the Pilot's Operating Handbook.

NOTE: Special Tail Rotor Preflight Inspection sheet may be removed from Pilot's Operating Handbook following replacement of affected tail rotor blades.

PART B: Replace each affected tail rotor blade per R66 Maintenance Manual (MM) § 64-20 and install tail rotor assembly per MM § 64-10. Enter new blade serial numbers in aircraft maintenance records.

(OVER)

APPROXIMATE COST:

Part A:

Parts: None required (Special Tail Rotor Preflight Inspection sheet included as part of Bulletin).

Labor: 0.2 man-hour.

Part B:

Parts: No charge for helicopters or parts under warranty; each legible data plate removed from an affected blade and returned to RHC will be exchanged for a new blade.

Non-warranty replacement F029-1 blade list price of \$3350 will be discounted to \$950 upon receipt of legible data plate.

Labor: 3.5 man-hours.

Discount only applies to blades replaced by 31 December 2022. Cost does not include transportation. Discount not available for blades with over 1900 hours total time in service or for blades which, in the opinion of RHC, suffered external damage. Normal Service Center discounts do not apply.

SPECIAL TAIL ROTOR PREFLIGHT INSPECTION

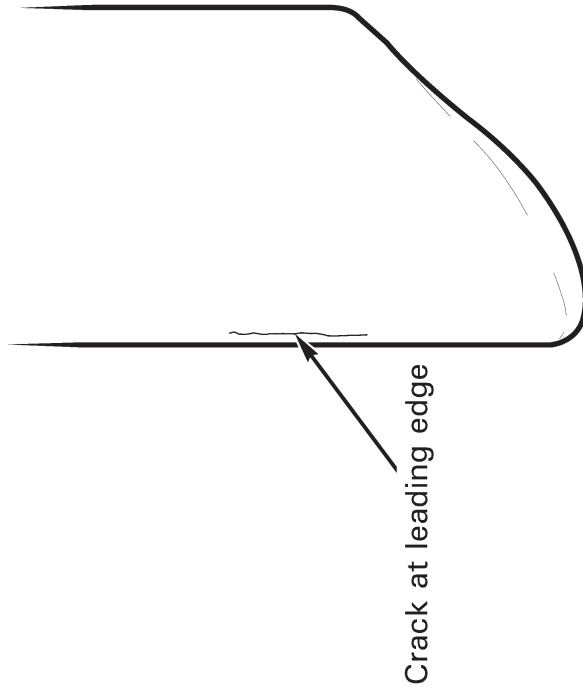
To be inserted before the title page of the Pilot's Operating Handbook for all helicopters with affected tail rotor blades per R66 SB-40.

Also distribute to all pilots flying these helicopters.

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Refer to Figure below.

As part of each preflight inspection, perform detailed visual inspection of outboard 12 inches (30 cm) of blade leading edge. If any hairline crack similar to one shown in figure is found, aircraft is unairworthy. Replace blade prior to further flight.



Crack at leading edge

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This page may be removed from the Pilot's Operating Handbook following replacement of affected tail rotor blades.