

OPERATION SAFETY NOTICE

206L-17-52

28 June 2017

TO: All owners and operators of Model 206L-1, 206L-3 and 206L-4 Helicopters

SUBJECT: HIGH ALTITUDE TAIL ROTOR BLADE EXTERIOR CHECK

Bell Helicopter has been informed of a recent event on a model 407 where a tail rotor tip block departed the tail rotor blade assembly in flight. The design aspects of the High Altitude Tail Rotor (HATR) Blade Assembly are similar to the model 407 tail rotor blade. Bell Helicopter is publishing this Operation Safety Notice (OSN) to 206L1, 206L3 operators that have incorporated the Increased Gross Weight Kit (Service Instruction BHT-206-SI-2052) and the HATR Kit (Service Instruction BHT-206-SI-2054). It is also applicable to 206L4/206L4T operators having installed the HATR Kit (Service Instruction BHT-206-SI-2054 or BHT-206-SI-2057).

This OSN is being published to emphasize the importance of the EXTERIOR CHECK requirements contained in the BHT-206L4-FM-1 and BHT-206L4T-FM-1 Flight Manuals, specifically the Section 2 for FUSELAGE – FULL AFT, and the tail rotor blades. For clarification, “tip block seal integrity” or “tip block seal condition” referenced in these procedures is explained as any anomalies (i.e. cracks, dents, damage, etc...), that might indicate degradation of the tip block bond.

If any cracks are suspected in the bond lines, or anywhere else, on the tail rotor blade assembly it should be investigated further prior to flight. If a crack exists in any location, the blade is not acceptable and must be removed from service. Detailed tail rotor blade assembly inspection criteria can be found in the Service Instruction BHT-206SI-2054 or BHT-206-SI-2057, as applicable. Refer to the Figure 1 below and the Figure 2-11 (extracted from the Service Instruction BHT-206-SI-2054) of this OSN, to identify the areas to pay particular attention.

Please note that wiping dirt and soot from the blade tip will increase visibility of cracks and other conditions in the area.

For any questions regarding this letter, please contact:

Bell Helicopter Product Support Engineering - Light Helicopters
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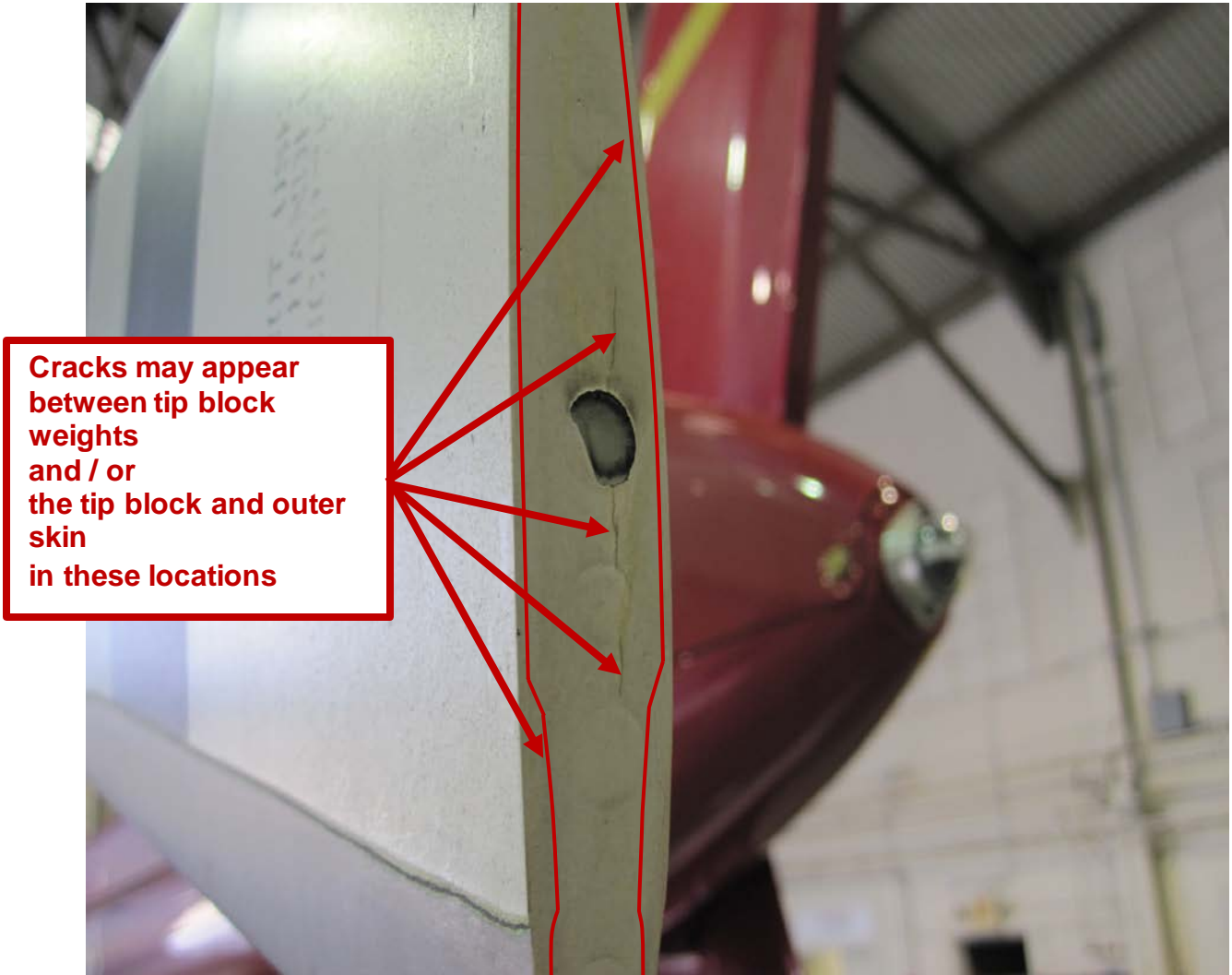
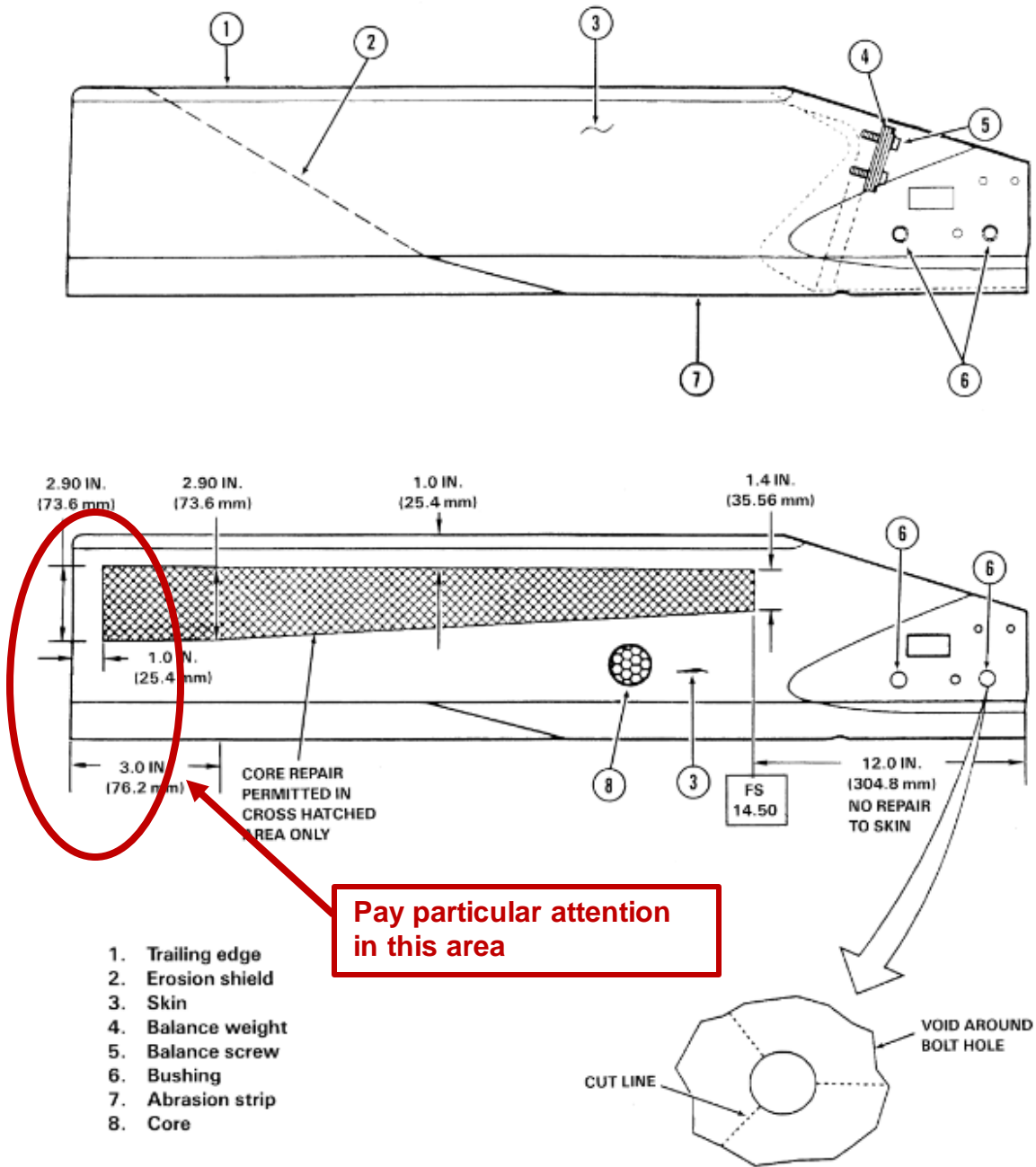


Figure 1 – Tail Rotor Blade Tip Block Area



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Figure 2-11. Blade Assembly (400-016-100) — Inspection and Repair