

**OPERATIONS SAFETY NOTICE**

March 24, 2000

**OSN 212-00-36**  
**OSN 205-00-35**  
**OSN 204-00-25****TO:** All Owners/Operators of Bell 204 / 205 / 212 Helicopters.**SUBJECT:** Main Rotor Mast 204-011-450-ALL Retirement Index Number Calculation and Bell Helicopter Request for Information

Bell Helicopter has recently investigated an in-flight separation of a 212 main rotor assembly. Investigation revealed that the mast 204-011-450 failed at the snap ring grooves that retain the stab bar dampers. According to the operators records the mast had accumulated approximately 290,000 RIN cycles. Follow on Review of the historical records by BHT in accordance with ASB 212-95-97, 205-95-65, and 204-95-47 indicated that the mast had exceeded the RIN life by a significant amount.

This OSN is issued to advise all 204/205/212 owners and operators that the calculation of the Retirement Index Number (RIN) is critical and must be calculated in accordance with the ASB instructions. If operators, do not understand the calculation requirements per the ASB instructions they are urged to contact Product Support Engineering.

Bell Helicopter is also requesting all owners and operators, submit to Product Support Engineering, a complete information package of all 204-011-450-ALL masts presently in service and held in stock. The information must include the part number, serial number, total time in service and RIN count presently recorded on the masts as well as the aircraft model, serial number, and aircraft total if presently installed. This information will be used by Bell for discussion purposes with the FAA. This information is requested at the operators earliest convenience.

Contact numbers for Product Support are;

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