

Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

A Subsidiary of Textron, Inc.

January 8, 2001

INFORMATION LETTER 204-01-14

TO: All Owners/Operators of Bell 204B series Helicopters

SUBJECT: FIN SPAR ASSEMBLY REPLACEMENT

In 1998, based on field experience and stress analysis, Bell Helicopter Textron identified a need for periodically inspecting the vertical fin spar to ensure continued airworthiness, and published an Alert Service Bulletin to that effect (ASB 204-98-50). It is still BHT's position that this inspection is adequate and sufficient to ensure safety.

Subsequently, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued an Airworthiness Directive (also enforced by Transport Canada (TC)) which ultimately requires the replacement of the fin spar for all model 204B helicopters operating under its rules (ref FAA AD 99-17-03).

Following the publication of these documents, some organizations have designed modifications to replace the fin spar. This letter is to inform owners and operators that Bell Helicopter has worked with Helipro Corporation Int'l to help them obtain Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) approval from FAA and TC for the replacement of the spar assembly. This STC installation has been accepted by the FAA as a terminating action for the AD and BHT accepts it as a terminating action for ASB 204-98-50.

Owners/operators interested in acquiring the Helipro kit may contact them at:

Helipro Corporation International
Hangar D; 2000 W. Bakerview Road
Bellingham, WA 98226 USA
Phone: (360) 734-3532
Main Fax: (360) 734-3193
Purchasing Fax: (360) 647-2665

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Other STC installations have also been approved by the FAA. Information on these STC may be obtained from the FAA. Contact Mr. Charles C. Harrison at (817) 222-5128 or by fax at (817) 222-5961.