

Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

A Subsidiary of Textron, Inc.

April 5, 2001

INFORMATION LETTER 407-01-61

TO: All Owners/Operators of Bell 407 Helicopters.

SUBJECT: M407 AIRSPEED REDUCTION (V_{NE}), REMOVAL OF

REFERENCE: Transport Canada Aviation AD CF-2001-01.

This information letter is issued to update our customers on the status of the V_{NE} reduction for the 407.

Effective immediately, Transport Canada Airworthiness Directive (AD) CF-2001-01R1, copy attached, removes the Model 407 airspeed restriction.

Based on preliminary investigation reports, Transport Canada elected to release an Airworthiness Directive (AD) to mandate a reduction in the V_{NE} from 140 KIAS to 110 KIAS, for aircraft fitted with the Airspeed Actuated Pedal Stop (AAPS).

A briefing was held last week with TCA, FAA, CTSB and NTSB to review the findings to date. While investigation into the cause of the accident continues, all parties present agreed that no data has emerged to confirm that the accident was initiated by a tail rotor strike.

Bell Helicopter wishes to thank our customers for the commitment and continued loyalty they have demonstrated in the Model 407 while working through this airspeed restriction.



No.	1/1
CF-2001-01R1	
Issue Date	3 April 2001

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

The following airworthiness directive (AD) may be applicable to an aircraft which our records indicate is registered in your name. ADs are issued pursuant to Canadian Aviation Regulation (CAR) 603. Pursuant to CAR 605.64 and the further details of CAR Standard 623, Appendix H, the continuing airworthiness of a Canadian registered aircraft is contingent upon compliance with all applicable ADs. Failure to comply with the requirements of an AD may invalidate the flight authorization of the aircraft. Alternative means of compliance shall be applied for in accordance with CAR 605.64 and the above-referenced Standard.

This AD has been issued by the Continuing Airworthiness Division (CAAD), Aircraft Certification Branch, Transport Canada, Ottawa, telephone (613) 952-4857.

- Number:** CF-2001-01R1
- Subject:** Bell 407 - Never-Exceed Speed Reduction
- Effective:** Upon receipt.
- Revision:** Supersedes Airworthiness Directive CF-2001-01, dated 8 January 2001.
- Applicability:** All Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Model 407 helicopters.
- Compliance:** No later than 31 May 2001.
- Background:** There has been an accident in which a Bell 407 helicopter flying at approximately 140 knots was destroyed. Preliminary investigations suggested a tail rotor strike to the tail boom in flight. While investigation into the cause of the accident continues, no data has emerged to confirm that the accident was initiated by a tail rotor strike. Consequently the requirement to continue with the V_{NE} restriction imposed by Airworthiness Directive (AD) CF-2001-01 is no longer necessary.
- Corrective Actions:**
1. Remove the copy of AD CF-2001-01 from the Aircraft Flight Manual (AFM) and advise all pilots of its removal.
 2. Remove the V_{NE} limitation placard and airspeed indicator redline limits which were installed in accordance with AD CF-2001-01.
 3. Accomplishment of paragraphs 1 and 2 above constitute terminating action for the requirements of this directive.
- Note:** The V_{NE} restriction imposed by AD CF-1998-36R7, including insertion of that AD into the AFM, and installation of V_{NE} limitation placards and airspeed indicator redline limits, remains in effect until the terminating requirements of that directive have been met.
- Authorization:** For Minister of Transport.
- Bogdan Gajewski*
B. Gajewski
Chief, Continuing Airworthiness
- Contact:** Mr. Bogdan Gajewski, Continuing Airworthiness, Ottawa, telephone (613)952-4450, facsimile (613) 996-8178 or e-mail gajewsb@tc.gc.ca or any Transport Canada Centre.