

Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

A Subsidiary of Textron, Inc.

January 23, 2004

INFORMATION LETTER 407-04-76

TO: All Owners/Operators of Bell 407 Helicopters

**SUBJECT: INSPECTION PROGRAM INCREASED TO 300 HOURS FOR ALL
FAA-REGISTERED BELL 407 HELICOPTERS**

Bell Helicopter is pleased to announce that, effective 21 January 2004, the FAA has agreed to allow operators of FAA-registered Bell 407 helicopters to revert to the Bell-recommended maintenance plan.

All FAA-registered operators of the Bell 407 are now eligible to use the Bell maintenance program. This program comprises the following:

- An airframe periodic inspection at 300-hr intervals (in lieu of the current 100-hr interval), or
- A progressive inspection made up of six 50-hr intervals over a 300 hr period, and
- A blanket statement for Scheduled Inspection Tolerance (10%, up to a maximum of 30 hrs or 30 days).

This important change results in substantial savings in Direct Operating Cost (DOC), to operators of FAA-registered Bell 407, of approximately US\$ 5.45 per hour. In addition, the introduction of a blanket tolerance for scheduled inspections allows the operator increased flexibility in day-to-day operations.

A revision to Chapter 5 – FAA Supplement confirming this latest development will soon be issued. In addition, the FAA has agreed to rescind Note 32 from the Type Certificate Data Sheet (TCDS) H2SW. This note currently mandates the use of Chapter-5, FAA-Supplement for all FAA-registered Bell 407. Once the note is removed, there will no longer be a need for the FAA-supplement.

We appreciate your confidence in the Bell 407. Bell continues to improve the Bell 407, reaffirming its position as best in class.