

Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

A Subsidiary of Textron, Inc.

16 April 1999

INFORMATION LETTER 407-99-37

TO: All Owners/Operators of 407 Helicopters.

SUBJECT: M407 – V_{NE} RESTORATION UPDATE

Bell Helicopter has issued Technical Bulletin 407-99-17, dated 15 April 1999 that gives the instructions to fit the new tail rotor installation. This new TR installation yields additional clearance between the tail rotor and the tailboom structure. The modification consists of the installation of a new crosshead, mast nut, flapping stop, pitch horn assemblies, and a pedal stop.

The airworthiness authorities continue to review the flight test data that substantiates an increase in V_{NE} with the new tail rotor installation. We expect a favorable decision soon. Therefore, Bell Helicopter encourages all operators to complete the intent of the Technical Bulletin as soon as possible. Once Bell Helicopter is informed by the regulatory agencies of their acceptance of a V_{NE} increase, an ASB will be issued to introduce the exact configuration required.

Parts are available immediately to support the 407 fleet and are free of charge. However, customers must order the parts kit direct from Bell Helicopter spares administration. CO-OP orders will not be accepted per the Technical Bulletin. Send your request by facsimile, at the number below. Make sure to reference the helicopter serial number on which the kit will be installed.

FAX: 1-817-280-4745

BHT remains firmly committed to obtaining approval of the airworthiness authorities for the restoration of the original 140 knot V_{NE} performance and the full tail rotor authority for high altitude range to the 407. This issue remains the top priority within Bell Helicopter.