

# **Bell Helicopter** **TEXTRON**

A Subsidiary of Textron, Inc.

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## **INFORMATION LETTER 407-99-44**

**TO: All Owners/Operators of 407 Helicopters.**

**SUBJECT: Update Status of Increase to 140 KIAS**

This Information Letter is issued to provide a status update of the current design progress for restoring the 407 VNE to 140 knots. Bell Helicopter continues to apply urgent priority and attention to restoring the full airspeed and tail rotor performance to the 407 fleet, and is finalizing the design for a kit that will introduce an airspeed-activated tail rotor pedal stop. This kit will permit maximum tail rotor hover performance while restricting tail rotor authority at high airspeed.

The airspeed-activated tail rotor pedal stop is being created to allow the full recovery of the original performance with enhanced flight safety. The kit consists of an airspeed activated electrical solenoid that limits the tail rotor control travel above a specific airspeed. A redundant manual back-up system accessible to the pilot is included. System operational status is annunciated by a segment light module located on the face of the instrument panel in full view of the pilot. A separate caution light alerts the pilot to manually retract the stop using the pull cable if necessary.

Normal system function requires no pilot input. During take off, as the aircraft accelerates through 55 knots indicated air speed (IAS,) the pedal stop rotates into place reducing tail rotor pedal authority by 25%. Normal Flight Manual performance values are obtainable throughout the entire approved operations envelope. On approach for a landing, as the aircraft decelerates through 50 knots IAS, the pedal stop rotates to its static position, enabling the full pedal authority. Parts are being procured to retrofit the 407 fleet. The modification kit will be released for field installation as soon as engineering approvals are obtained and adequate parts are received.

We appreciate your continuing confidence in the 407 and are committed to this improvement.