



A Subsidiary of Textron, Inc.

Sept. 07, 2006

INFORMATION LETTER 206L-06-81

TO: All Owners/Operators of Bell 206L series Helicopters

SUBJECT: WARNING CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF STC STRAKES FROM BOUNDARY LAYER RESEARCH.

Bell Helicopter recently became aware that the FAA issued a Supplemental Type Certificate to Boundary Layer Research permitting the installation of tailboom strakes on the above-identified aircraft. While, Bell has no knowledge regarding the designing and testing of these strakes, the monocoque tailboom structure of the 206A/B and 206L series helicopters was not engineered to accommodate the attachment of extraneous items like these strakes, nor for the additional loads these strakes may impose on the structure.

Bell notes that since the aircraft was not designed for such a use, operation with these strakes is outside the operational flight envelope tested for and developed by Bell. As a result, there is, at least as to Bell, a lack of fatigue data, and maintenance or overhaul schedules for any mission other than that for which the aircraft was designed and delivered. Operating the aircraft with these strakes in place could result in unknown and undefined maintenance and inspection requirements and, additionally, render the procedures, retirement lives, etc., contained in the Bell manuals inapplicable.