

Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

A Subsidiary of Textron, Inc.

June 23, 2000

INFORMATION LETTER 407-00-51

TO: All Owners/Operators of Bell 407 Helicopters.

SUBJECT: RECURRING TAILBOOM INSPECTION

On April 13, 1999 Bell Helicopter issued Alert Service Bulletin 407-99-26 which implemented a recurring inspection in the area of the horizontal stabilizer cut-out, left hand side, for tailbooms with over 600 hours time in service. This ASB was revised on May 5, 2000 to expand the area of inspection to selected fasteners forward of the horizontal stabilizer.

This inspection has been functioning exactly as intended, and continues to ensure the airworthiness of tailbooms in service. No emergency exists, nor is there any intention of grounding the 407 fleet.

Since the time that this inspection was released, Bell Helicopter has been working to define a relieving action. The solution which will eliminate the recurring inspections will be undertaken so as to minimize the cost and schedule impact on our customers. This effort is receiving the maximum priority within Bell Helicopter, and 407 customers will be notified as soon as possible.

Bell Helicopter apologizes for any inconvenience this inspection has caused, and wishes to assure our customers that we are working diligently to eliminate this requirement. Please contact us if we can answer any further questions.

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