



## **INFORMATION LETTER**

**GEN-01-77**

26 April 2001

Revision A, 5 June 2017

**TO: All owners and operators of Bell Helicopters**

**SUBJECT: FUEL CELL SHELF LIFE & STORAGE**

This revised information letter is issued to clarify the preservation, packing/packaging and storage recommendations that are applicable to AMFUEL™ fuel cells only.

Fuel cells should be stored in their original container/packaging at temperatures from 20° F to 100° F. Cells shall be at room temperature (above 60° F, minimum) before unfolding for an inspection or installation preparations.

Fuel cells that have been handled and / or stored in an acceptable manner that are placed into service within two years from date of manufacture require no additional inspection.

Fuel cells that have been handled and / or stored in an acceptable manner and are new (unused) and in their original shipping container but have exceeded the 2 years from date of manufacture shall accomplish the following:

1. Remove the fuel cell from the original shipping container and inspect for visual evidence of deterioration (e.g. cracking), damage or deformation.
2. If none of the above is evident, the inner liner of the fuel cell shall be given a light coat of oil (MIL -0-6081, Grade 1010 or SAE 1 0 non-detergent oil) and repackaged consistent with the original method.
3. If non-acceptable conditions are evidence, the fuel cell shall be reworked / repaired to eliminate the defect and leak tested in accordance with the applicable (factory) ATP or specification and repackaged.
4. This re-inspection procedure shall be repeated a minimum of every 2 years.
5. On the second and all subsequent re-inspections, in addition to the visual check, the cell shall be leak tested in accordance with the applicable specifications. The cell shall be processed per Item 3 above.

Fuel cells that have been handled and / or stored in an acceptable manner and are new (unused) and in their original shipping container but have exceeded three years from date of manufacture shall be handled per item number 5.

If a cell has previously contained fuel and is to remain without fuel for a period of three (3) days or longer, preservation is required. Applying a thin coating of lubricating oil, grade 1010, Mil 6081 or SAE 10 non detergent oil to the fuel cell inner liner accomplishes the preservation requirements. Packaging shall be consistent to original method.

For any questions regarding this letter, please contact Bell Product Support Engineering:

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