



OPERATIONS SAFETY NOTICE

October 16, 2003

OSN 222-03-22
OSN 222U-03-18**TO:** All Owners/Operators of Bell 222, 222B, and 222U Helicopters**SUBJECT: TAIL ROTOR BLADES 222-016-001-ALL, PERIODIC INSPECTION OF**

This Operation Safety Notice (OSN) is issued to inform owners and operators of recent events affecting subject tail rotor blades.

Bell Helicopter Textron has received reports of two incidents in which a crack at the tail rotor blade root was found. Preliminary evaluation indicates that in both cases the crack started at the outboard spherical bearing bore in the blade skin. On one blade, the crack is running chordwise towards the leading edge and on the other blade, the crack is running chordwise towards the trailing edge. The crack could be located on either surface of the blade.

While the investigation is ongoing, Bell Helicopter Textron recommends that each owner and operator pay particular attention in checking for cracks in the above mentioned area during the preflight check and scheduled inspections. All blades in spares stock should also be inspected.

If cracks are found in the blade, it must be replaced before the helicopter is released for flight and Bell Helicopter Textron Product Support Engineering must be notified.

Bell Helicopter Textron
Product Support Engineering
Tel: 1-800-463-3036 (Continental USA and Canada)
Tel: 1-800-463-1971 (Canada)
Tel: 1-450-437-2077 (all over areas-call collect)
Fax: 1-450-433-0272 (Continental USA)
Internet : pseinter@bellhelicopter.textron.com