



A Textron Company

INFORMATION LETTER

429-20-10

19 October 2020

TO: All owners and operators of Model 429 helicopters

SUBJECT: INADVERTENT ACTUATION OF BELL 429 COLLECTIVE STICK HEAD SWITCHES

Bell wishes to inform owner/operators of the possibility of inadvertently actuating switches on the collective stick head when using it as a hand rest or for control inputs.

The collective stick head is the location for engine control, Automatic Flight Control System (AFCS), external lighting and HEC hook release switches. The HEC hook release and the OEI limit override switches are guarded. However, it is possible to inadvertently press/toggle the yaw trim, the collective trim, the RPM, the Go Around (GA) and the OEI limit switches. For example, holding the OEI limit switch down inadvertently can result in a dual ECU degrade indication which will necessitate corrective maintenance action.

The Bell 429 collective stick head was not intended as a hand rest. Additionally, pilots should refrain from using the collective stick head to move the collective controls. Bell recommends using only the twist grip area for that purpose.

Furthermore, pilots and copilots should also be mindful of their knees. There have been several occurrences where the OEI limit switch was inadvertently held out of detent because the pilot's or copilot's knee was resting on the collective stick head.

For any questions regarding this letter, please contact:

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