



A Textron Company

OPERATION SAFETY NOTICE

GEN-24-54

2 July 2024

TO: All owners and operators of Bell helicopters

SUBJECT: NON-CONFORMING NAS9926-4L NUTS

This General Operation Safety Notice (GEN OSN) is to inform owners and operators of a quality escape that may affect some of the subject nuts manufactured by ESNA. The suspected nuts have been manufactured between 2022 and prior to the release of this OSN. It is possible that some nuts not meeting the 3.5 inch-pounds (0.40 Nm) minimum tare torque requirement may have been installed on delivered helicopters or sold through Bell Spares.

Bell and the Supplier are still investigating the root cause of the non-conformity and evaluating possible field actions. Based on findings, it has been established that only the NAS9926-4L ESNA manufactured nuts with the marking E or EN, as shown below, are suspected. Helicopters on the production assembly line are being inspected for non-conforming nuts that may have been installed. While the issue is still under investigation, Bell emphasizes the importance of measuring the tare torque of self-locking fasteners prior to installation. The criticality of following proper attaching hardware torquing procedures is also highlighted in the recently released General OSN, **GEN-24-53**. As a reminder, some components require a torque check after installation. It is important to ensure that the required torque checks are accomplished as recommended per the applicable Maintenance Manual (MM) Chapter 5, to ensure proper clamp up and security of attachment.

The self-locking feature of retaining nuts is to prevent complete separation of the nut from the bolt in the event it was improperly installed with the required torque. The Maintenance Manual (MM) and Standard Practices Manual (SPM) provide guidance to help operators/maintainers to use the correct installation torque for the fasteners. The scheduled inspections for the bolted assembly ensure joint integrity throughout the operational life of the helicopter.

At this stage of the investigation, Bell has no reason to believe that an immediate maintenance action is required. Once the impact of this non-conformity is better understood, this OSN will be revised or another Service Directive will be released to inform operators of our findings and recommended maintenance actions, if any are required.

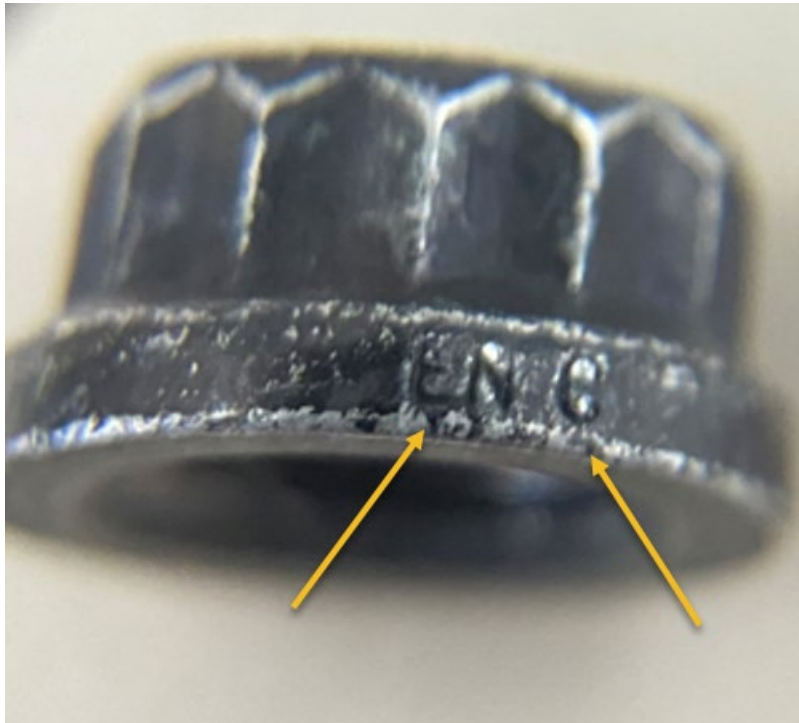


Figure 1. NAS9926 nut manufactured by ESNA

Note: “EN” marking indicates the manufacturer is ESNA and the letter “C” indicates CRES material.

For any questions regarding this letter, please contact:

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