



A Textron Company

ALERT SERVICE BULLETIN

429-17-35

16 January 2017

Revision A, 6 July 2021

MODEL AFFECTED: 429

SUBJECT: TAIL ROTOR BLADE 429-016-101-105,
INSPECTION OF.

HELICOPTERS AFFECTED: Serial numbers 57001 and subsequent equipped with tail rotor blades that have serial numbers preceding VL00176338. Tail rotor blade serial numbers beginning with "A" or "BH" all precede serial numbers beginning with "VL" and are affected by this bulletin.

[Tail rotor blades that have a serial number equal to or greater than VL00176338 will have the intent of this bulletin accomplished prior to delivery]

COMPLIANCE: Accomplish this bulletin within 50 flight hours of operation following the publication of this bulletin and every 50 hours until the helicopter reaches 300 flight hours total time. A one time inspection must be accomplished within 50 flight hours following the publication of this bulletin for helicopters having exceeded 300 flight hours.

New or spare tail rotor blades with an affected serial number must be inspected within 50 hours following the publication of this bulletin and every 50 hours until the blade reaches 300 flight hours total time. A one time inspection must be accomplished within 50 flight hours following the publication of this bulletin for tail rotor blades with an affected serial number that have exceeded 300 flight hours.

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Approved for public release.

DESCRIPTION:

Bell Helicopter has received three reports of tail rotor blade skin cracks. As such this defect will become evident as a chordwise paint crack.

Revision A of this bulletin introduces changes to the **HELICOPTERS AFFECTED**, **COMPLIANCE** and **ACCOMPLISHMENT INSTRUCTIONS** sections. These changes are being put in place following a third report of a skin crack on a helicopter that was outside the serial number range of affected helicopters in the original release of this bulletin. Helicopters and blades that have been inspected in accordance with the original release of this bulletin already meet the intent of this revision.

Applicability of this bulletin to any spare part shall be determined prior to its installation on an affected helicopter.

APPROVAL:

The engineering design aspects of this bulletin are Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA) approved.

CONTACT INFO:

For any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact:

Bell Product Support Engineering
Tel: 1-450-437-2862 / 1-800-363-8023 / productsupport@bellflight.com

MANPOWER:

Approximately 0.5 man-hours are required to complete this bulletin. This estimate is based on hands-on time and may vary with personnel and facilities available.

WARRANTY:

There is no warranty credit applicable for parts or labor associated with this bulletin.

MATERIAL:

Consumable Material:

The following material is required to accomplish this bulletin, but may not require ordering, depending on the operator's consumable material stock levels. This material may be obtained through your Bell Supply Center.

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Nomenclature</u>	<u>Qty (Note)</u>	<u>Reference *</u>
2100-00006-00	Detergent	5 Gal (1)	C-318

* C-XXX numbers refer to the consumables list in the BHT-ALL-SPM, Standard Practices Manual

NOTE 1: Or equivalent aviation approved detergent.

SPECIAL TOOLS:

None required.

WEIGHT AND BALANCE:

Not affected

ELECTRICAL LOAD DATA:

Not affected.

REFERENCES:

BHT-429-MM Maintenance Manual

PUBLICATIONS AFFECTED:

None affected.

ACCOMPLISHMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

-NOTE-

Tail rotor blade serial numbers beginning with "A" or "BH" all precede serial numbers beginning with "VL" and are affected by this bulletin.

1. Verify helicopter Historical Service Records and determine if the helicopter is equipped with an affected tail rotor blade serial number.
 - a. If the helicopter is not equipped with an affected tail rotor blade serial number, proceed to step 5.
 - b. If the helicopter is equipped with an affected tail rotor blade serial number, proceed to next step.
2. Prepare the helicopter for maintenance.

3. Carry out a general visual Inspection of all four tail rotor blade inboard and outboard skins for evidence of chordwise paint cracks.
4. Should a paint crack be detected in a tail rotor blade skin, please contact Product Support Engineering for further instructions.
5. Make an entry in the helicopter logbook and the Historical Service Record (HSR) indicating compliance with this Alert Service Bulletin.

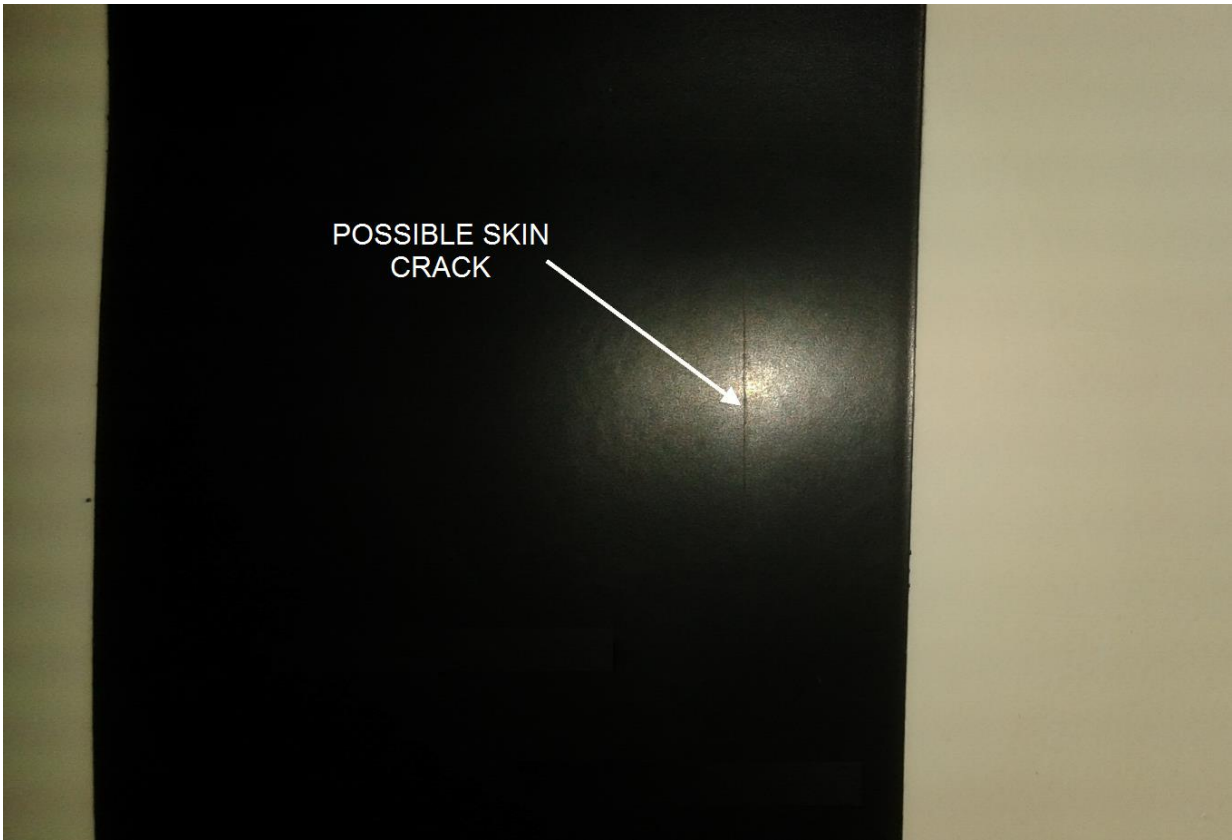


Figure 1 - Possible Skin Crack Indication