



## INFORMATION LETTER

**505-20-12**  
7 October 2020

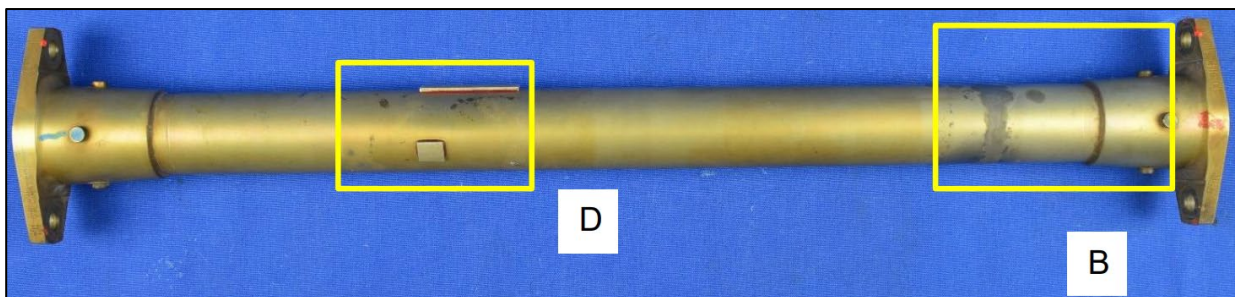
**TO: All owners and operators of Model 505 helicopters**

**SUBJECT: FORWARD TAIL ROTOR DRIVESHAFT CORROSION**

Bell has received reports of forward tail rotor driveshafts 406-040-315-119 having similar surface discoloration patterns as shown below. Our investigation revealed that the residue from an engine cleaning solution is most likely the cause. The appearance of the discoloration on the shaft is consistent with fluid dripping and flowing around the tube. The chromate conversion and cadmium plating protective coatings were no longer present within these discolored areas.

This information letter is to advise owner/operators that the use of cleaning products for other tasks, engine washing in this example, could have an adverse effect on other components such as the driveshaft in this case. It is important to perform a thorough rinse and wipe the driveshaft clean of any engine wash solution residue after its use.

Refer to BHT-ALL-SPM chapter 5, for the applicable best practices' procedure for cleaning metal surfaces. Chapter 3 provides instructions for corrosion control and protective covering/coatings treatments.



For any questions regarding this letter, please contact:

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