



A Textron Company

OPERATION SAFETY NOTICE

GEN-24-54

2 July 2024

Revision A, 19 August 2024

TO: All owners and operators of Bell helicopters

SUBJECT: NON-CONFORMING NAS9926-4L NUTS

The original release of this General Operation Safety Notice (GEN OSN) was issued to inform owners and operators of a quality escape that may have affected some of the subject nuts manufactured by ESNA. The suspected nuts were manufactured between 2022 and prior to the original release of this OSN. There was a possibility that some nuts were not meeting the 3.5 inch-pounds (0.40 Nm) minimum tare torque requirement and that they could 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. 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 were inspected for non-conforming nuts that could have been installed.

Revision A of this OSN is to inform owners and operators of the result of our investigation. Bell findings indicate that no component or aircraft have been delivered with non-confirming NAS9926-4L nuts. However, based on the information received from the manufacturer ESNA, and the results of our inventory verification, some NAS9926-4L nuts having a tare torque below the minimum required of 3.5 inch-pounds (0.40 Nm) may have been delivered through Bell Spares between January 2023 and March 2024. As a reminder, and as instructed in the Standard Practices Manual (BHT-ALL-SPM), nuts that do not meet the minimum requirement for tare torque shall not be used.

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.

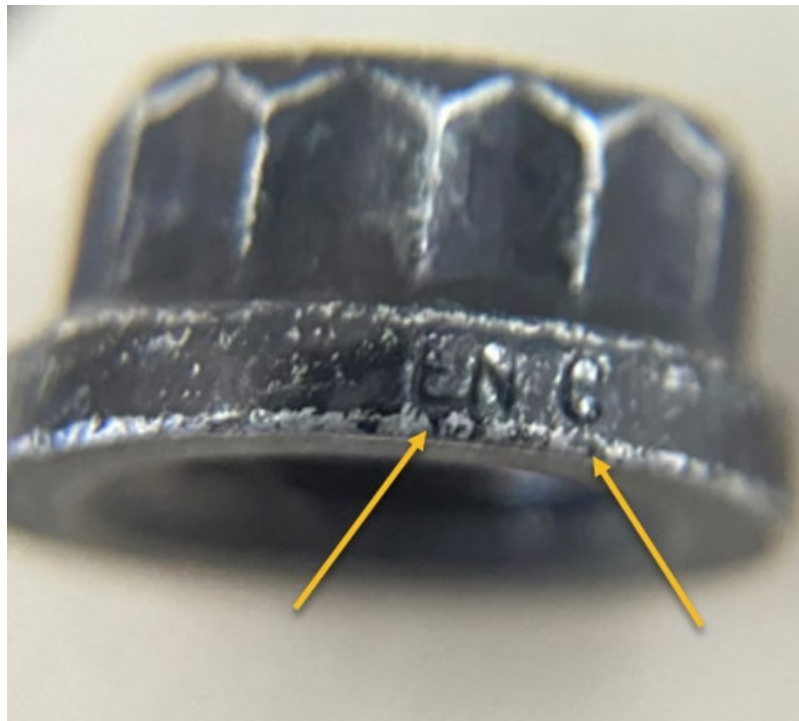


Figure 1. NAS9926 nut manufactured by ESNA

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

For any questions regarding this letter, please contact:

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