



A Textron Company

INFORMATION LETTER

429-21-14
17 March 2021

TO: All owners and operators of Model 429 helicopters

SUBJECT: MAIN ROTOR BLADE GROUND STRAP 429-015-021-101, INSPECTION OF

Bell has received field reports concerning defective conditions of the Main Rotor Blade (MRB) ground strap (also known as a bonding clip) 429-015-021-101. There have been 3 types of findings reported (Figure 1):

1. Ground strap completely detached from the MRB
2. Ground strap partially detached at the silver soldering location
3. Debonding between the ground strap and the compression block

The ground strap is silver soldered to the leading edge abrasion strip of the blade at its forward end and bonded to the compression block at its aft end. For the type 1 finding mentioned above, to re-solder the ground strap, the leading edge abrasion strip must be lifted due to the heat generated during soldering. Hence, such repairs can only be done by an authorized blade repair facility. For the type 2 finding, contact Bell Product Support Engineering (PSE) with the details of the defect. Depending on the engineering evaluation, it may be possible to provide a temporary field repair, but eventually the blade will need to be sent to an authorized blade repair facility for a permanent repair. For the type 3 finding, contact Bell PSE for a field repair procedure.

In the main rotor blade installation procedure, DMC-429-A-62-10-00-00A-720A-A, a caution reminds operators to 'MAKE SURE THE ELECTRICAL BONDING CLIP AND THE SURFACE OF THE MAIN ROTOR GRIP ASSEMBLY ARE NOT DAMAGED DURING INSTALLATION OF THE MAIN ROTOR BLADE ASSEMBLY.'. The main rotor blade inspection procedure, DMC-429-A-62-10-00-00A-310A-A, asks to examine the ground strap and its mounting hardware and the compression block for condition and security of attachment.

We encourage operators to observe the maintenance manual requirements when installing or inspecting the main rotor blades. Paying attention to the tell-tale signs could help to identify this issue at an early stage, so that the necessary maintenance actions can be carried out to avoid AOG situations.

For any questions regarding this letter, please contact:

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

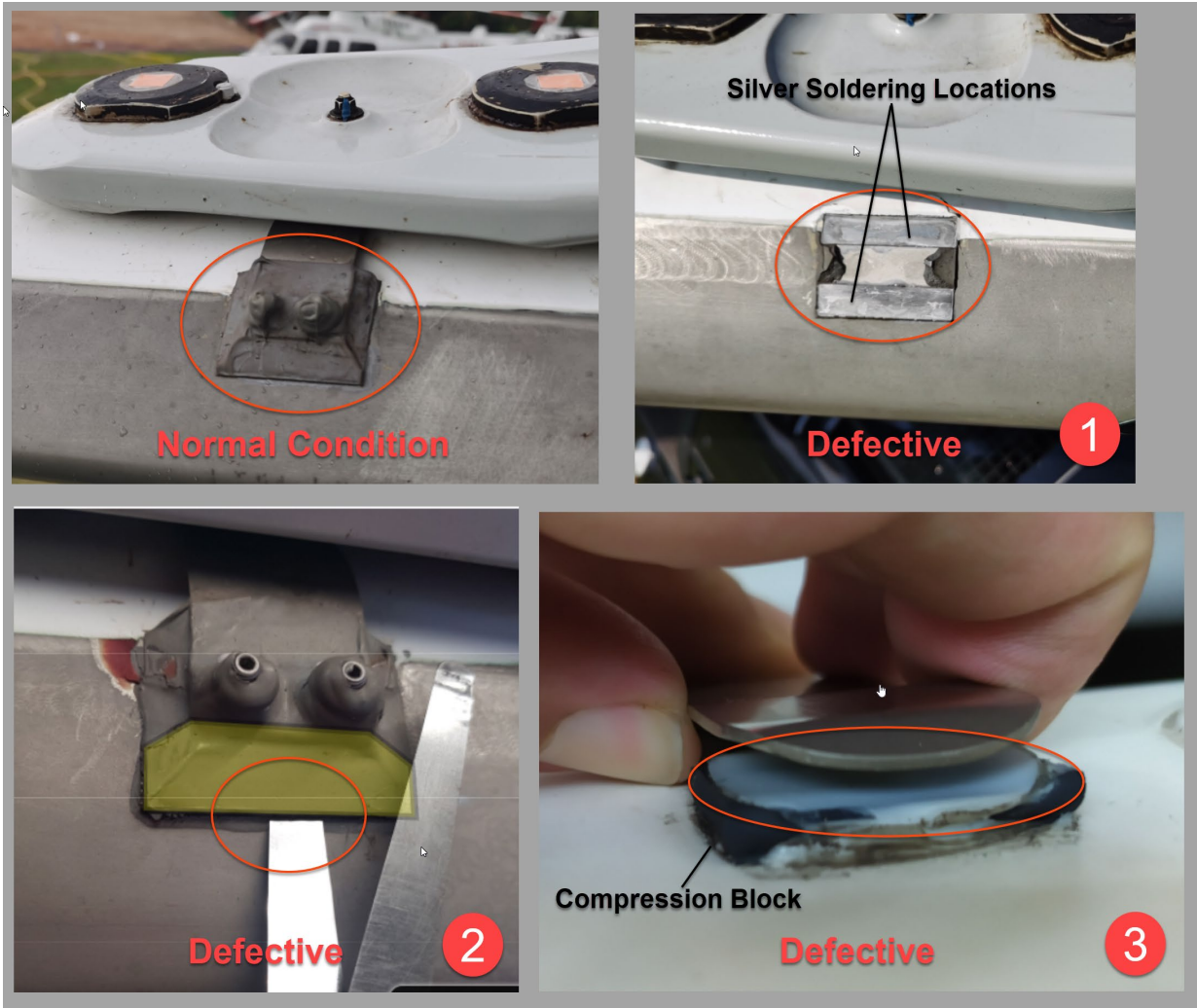


Figure 1 – 429 Main Rotor Blade Ground Strap Findings