



A Textron Company

INFORMATION LETTER

GEN-21-151

12 May 2021

TO: All owners and operators of Bell helicopters

SUBJECT: DEFECTIVE PITOT/STATIC ELBOW FITTING 50-012-13N402

Bell received a report of a defective plastic elbow fittings 50-012-13N402 (Figure 1) found with a “molding membrane” in the 90° section of the elbow which was blocking the airflow. This manufacturing defect was found on three fittings that came from a lot purchased by Bell from an approved supplier in the 2014 timeframe.

Following this report, Bell has conducted a stock purge of the subject part in inventory and all elbow fittings located at Bell Supply Centers were found free of the defect. Bell has also informed the supplier of the defect and requested appropriate corrective actions to prevent future occurrences.

There are several different types of plastic fittings, elbows, union, etc. used across the aviation industry in pitot-static systems. These parts can be manufactured and procured from various suppliers and distributors. Although this is the only report of this nature received by Bell, this Information Letter (IL) is being released to raise awareness of possible manufacturing defects that could potentially be found on these types of parts. Parts that are not considered as “flight critical” are inspected in manufacturing lots and not every part is necessarily inspected. However, these parts could be installed in a flight critical system like the pitot-static system. Although we try to ensure that our suppliers provide serviceable and airworthy parts, human errors and manufacturing defects can still occur.

It is always a good maintenance practice to visually inspect any part for general condition prior to installation on a helicopter. In cases where an

anomaly is detected during a required pitot-static system functional check following replacement/installation of plastic fittings, a detailed inspection of all fittings for possible partial or complete obstruction should be performed to identify the root cause.

For any questions regarding this letter, please contact:

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Figure 1 – Example of Pitot Static System Plastic Parts