

R44 SERVICE BULLETIN SB-108

DATE: 30 June 2021

TO: R44-series Owners, Operators, and Maintenance Personnel

SUBJECT: C029-3 Tail Rotor Blade Cracks

EFFECTIVITY: P/N C029-3 tail rotor blade S/Ns 9410 thru 9909. Affected blades were factory-installed on the following aircraft:

R44 Helicopter S/Ns 0565, 1554, and 2588 thru 2598,
R44 II Helicopter S/Ns 11049, 11241, 11429, 11529, 11608, 11611, 12415, and 14330 thru 14359,
R44 Cadet Helicopter S/Ns 30058, 30059, 30060, and 30063.

Affected blades were also shipped as spares from March thru December 2019.

TIME OF COMPLIANCE:

Part A: Within next 10 flight hours or by 31 July 2021, whichever occurs first.

Part B: By 31 December 2021.

BACKGROUND: RHC has received reports of C029-3 tail rotor blades with a spanwise corrosion crack along the leading edge of the blade. All reports involve blades from a single manufacturing lot with a suspected heat treat anomaly. Affected blades must be removed from service. For continued operation until blades are replaced, additional pilot preflight inspection is required.

COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE:

PART A: If helicopter is equipped with one or more affected tail rotor blades, insert enclosed Special Tail Rotor Preflight Inspection (page 3 of this bulletin) before the title page of the Pilot's Operating Handbook.

NOTE: Special Tail Rotor Preflight Inspection sheet may be removed from Pilot's Operating Handbook following replacement of affected tail rotor blades.

PART B: Replace each affected tail rotor blade per R44 Maintenance Manual (MM) § 9.300 and install tail rotor assembly per MM § 9.220. Enter new blade serial numbers in aircraft maintenance records.

(OVER)

APPROXIMATE COST:

Part A:

Parts: None required (Special Tail Rotor Preflight Inspection sheet included as part of Bulletin).

Labor: 0.2 man-hour.

Part B:

Parts: No charge for helicopters under warranty; legible data plate must be removed from affected blade and returned to RHC.

Replacement C029-3 blade list price of \$3320 discounted to \$940.

Labor: 3.5 man-hours.

Discount only applies to blades replaced by 31 December 2021. Cost does not include transportation. Discount not available for blades with over 2100 hours total time in service or for blades which, in the opinion of RHC, suffered external damage. Normal Service Center discounts do not apply.

SPECIAL TAIL ROTOR PREFLIGHT INSPECTION

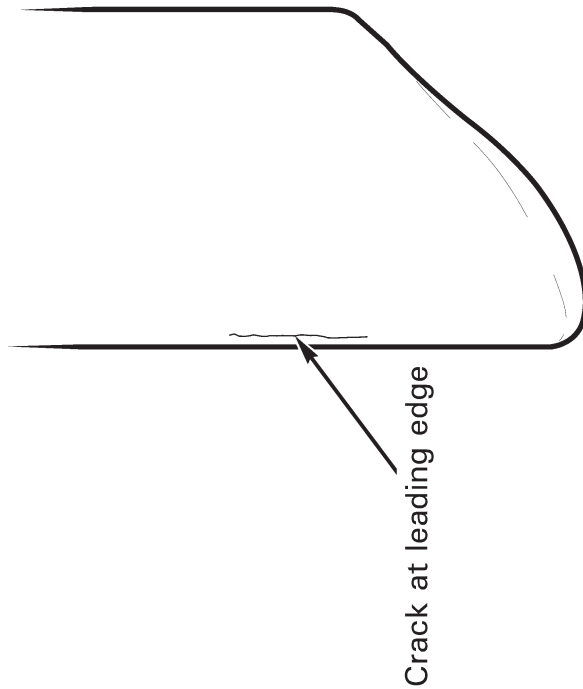
To be inserted before the title page of the Pilot's Operating Handbook for all helicopters with affected tail rotor blades per R44 SB-108.

Also distribute to all pilots flying these helicopters.

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Refer to Figure below.

As part of each preflight inspection, perform detailed visual inspection of outboard 12 inches (30 cm) of blade leading edge. If any hairline crack similar to one shown in figure is found, aircraft is unairworthy. Replace blade prior to further flight.



Crack at leading edge

This page may be removed from the Pilot's Operating Handbook following replacement of affected tail rotor blades.

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