

Accordingly, the comment period for Notice No. 00-15 is extended until March 29, 2001.

Ronald T. Wojnar,

Acting Director, Aircraft Certification Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-SW-54-AD; Amendment 39-12105; AD 2001-01-51]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Model 222, 222B, 222U, 230, and 430 Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document publishes in the **Federal Register** an amendment adopting Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2001-01-51, which was sent previously to all known U.S. owners and operators of Bell Helicopter Textron Canada (BHTC) Model 222, 222B, 222U, 230, and 430 helicopters by individual letters. This AD requires visually inspecting the main rotor hydraulic actuator support (support) to verify the presence of all dowel pins and sealant between the support and transmission and verifying the proper torque of each attaching nut (nut). This amendment is prompted by the failure of a support resulting in an accident of a BHTC Model 222U helicopter. All retaining studs and shear pins were found sheared or pulled out at the junction between the support and the transmission case. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent failure of the support and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

DATES: Effective March 2, 2001, to all persons except those persons to whom it was made immediately effective by Emergency AD 2001-01-51, issued on January 5, 2001, which contained the requirements of this amendment.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of March 2, 2001.

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before April 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation

Administration (FAA), Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000-SW-54-AD, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137. You may also send comments electronically to the Rules Docket at the following address: 9-asw-adcomments@faa.gov.

The applicable service information may be obtained from Bell Helicopter Textron Canada, 12,800 Rue de l'Avenir, Mirabel, Quebec JON1LO, telephone (450) 437-2862 or (800) 363-8023, fax (450) 433-0272. This information may be examined at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Grigg, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Regulations Group, Fort Worth, Texas 76193-0111, telephone (817) 222-5490, fax (817) 222-5961.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 5, 2001, the FAA issued Emergency AD 2001-01-51 for BHTC Model 222, 222B, 222U, 230, and 430 helicopters which requires visually inspecting the support to verify the presence of all dowel pins and sealant between the support and the transmission and verifying the proper torque of each nut. That action was prompted by the failure of a support resulting in an accident of a BHTC Model 222U helicopter. All retaining studs and shear pins were found sheared or pulled out at the junction between the support and the transmission case. This condition, if not detected, could result in failure of the support and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

The FAA has reviewed BHTC Alert Service Bulletin Nos. 222-00-86, 222U-00-57, 230-00-18, and 430-00-17, all dated May 19, 2000 (ASB's), which specify, within 25 hours time-in-service (TIS), conducting a one-time inspection of the support installation by accomplishing a torque check of the nuts. In addition, a revision to the maintenance manual will introduce a recurring torque check of the nuts. Transport Canada, which is the airworthiness authority for Canada, classified these ASB's as mandatory and issued AD No. CF-2000-29 dated September 6, 2000, to ensure the continued airworthiness of these helicopters in Canada.

Since the unsafe condition described is likely to exist or develop on other BHTC Model 222, 222B, 222U, 230, and 430 helicopters of the same type

designs, the FAA issued Emergency AD 2001-01-51 to prevent failure of the support and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter. The AD requires, at specified time intervals, visually inspecting the support to verify the presence of all dowel pins and sealant between the support and transmission and verifying the proper torque of each nut. Repairing or replacing any unairworthy support, transmission case, stud, or dowel pin and retorquing to proper torque are required before further flight. The actions must be accomplished in accordance with the ASB's described previously. The short compliance time involved is required because the previously described critical unsafe condition can adversely affect the structural integrity of the helicopter. Therefore, the actions previously listed are required within 25 hours TIS, and this AD must be issued immediately.

Since it was found that immediate corrective action was required, notice and opportunity for prior public comment thereon were impracticable and contrary to the public interest, and good cause existed to make the AD effective immediately by individual letters issued on January 5, 2001, to all known U.S. owners and operators of BHTC Model 222, 222B, 222U, 230, and 430 helicopters. These conditions still exist, and the AD is hereby published in the **Federal Register** as an amendment to section 39.13 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 39.13) to make it effective to all persons.

The FAA estimates that 145 helicopters of U.S. registry will be affected by this AD, that it will take approximately 1/2 work hour per helicopter to inspect for proper torque, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. The cost for the inspection is estimated to be \$4,350. Assuming 15 helicopters require removing the support for additional inspections, it would take approximately 6 additional work hours at \$60 per work hour and \$50 for parts at an additional total cost of \$410 per helicopter. Based on these figures, the total cost impact of this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$10,500, assuming no supports have to be replaced.

Comments Invited

Although this action is in the form of a final rule that involves requirements affecting flight safety and, thus, was not preceded by notice and an opportunity for public comment, comments are invited on this rule. Interested persons are invited to comment on this rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire.

Communications should identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified under the caption **ADDRESSES**. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered, and this rule may be amended in light of the comments received. Factual information that supports the commenter's ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of the AD action and determining whether additional rulemaking action would be needed.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the rule that might suggest a need to modify the rule. All comments submitted will be available in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report that summarizes each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this AD will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their mailed comments submitted in response to this rule must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket No. 2000-SW-54-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

The regulations adopted herein will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, it is determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

The FAA has determined that this regulation is an emergency regulation that must be issued immediately to correct an unsafe condition in aircraft, and that it is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866. It has been determined further that this action involves an emergency regulation under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979). If it is determined that this emergency regulation otherwise would be significant under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures, a final regulatory evaluation will be prepared and placed in the Rules Docket. A copy of it, if filed, may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. Section 39.13 is amended by adding a new airworthiness directive to read as follows:

2001-01-51 Bell Helicopter Textron

Canada: Amendment 39-12105. Docket No. 2000-SW-54-AD.

Applicability: Model 222, 222B, 222U, 230, and 430 helicopters, with a main rotor hydraulic actuator support (support), part number (P/N) 222-040-125-001, installed, certificated in any category.

Note 1: This AD applies to each helicopter identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been otherwise modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For helicopters that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (c) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent failure of the support and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 25 hours TIS and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 600 hours TIS, accomplish the following:

(1) Visually inspect the support for the presence of all dowel pins and for sealant between the support and the transmission. If any pin is missing, or if no sealant is visible, before further flight, remove the support and further inspect the support, transmission case, studs, and dowel pins in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraphs 5 through 7, of the applicable Bell Helicopter Textron Alert Service Bulletin Nos. 222-00-86, 222U-00-57, 230-00-18, or 430-00-17, all dated May 19, 2000 (ASB's). Repair or replace any unairworthy support, transmission case, stud, or dowel pin before further flight.

(2) Verify the torque of the support attaching nuts (nuts). Upper nuts must not rotate at a torque less than 40 in-lbs. Lower nuts must not rotate at a torque less than 90 in-lbs.

(i) If two or more upper nuts rotate at a torque less than 40 in-lbs. or two or more lower nuts rotate at a torque less than 90 in-lbs., before further flight, remove the support and further inspect the support, transmission case, studs, and dowel pins in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 5 through 7, of the applicable ASB's. Repair or replace any unairworthy support, transmission case, stud, or dowel pin before further flight.

(ii) If less than two upper nuts rotate at a torque less than 40 in-lbs. or less than two lower nuts rotate at a torque less than 90 in-lbs., before further flight, retorquer the upper nut to 50 to 70 in-lbs. plus tare and the lower nut to 100 to 140 in-lbs. plus tare.

(b) At not less than 20 hours TIS nor more than 30 hours TIS after reinstalling a support for any reason, verify the torque of the nuts in accordance with paragraph (a)(2) of this AD.

(c) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Regulations Group, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA. Operators shall submit their requests through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may concur or comment and then send it to the Manager, Regulations Group.

Note 2: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Regulations Group.

(d) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with 14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199 to operate the helicopter to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

(e) The inspections shall be done in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraphs 5 through 7, of the applicable Bell Helicopter Textron Alert Service Bulletin Nos. 222-00-86, 222U-00-57, 230-00-18, or 430-00-17, all dated May 19, 2000. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Bell Helicopter Textron Canada, 12,800 Rue de l'Avenir, Mirabel, Quebec JON1LO, telephone (450) 437-2862 or (800) 363-8023, fax (450) 433-0272. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

(f) This amendment becomes effective on March 2, 2001, to all persons except those persons to whom it was made immediately effective by Emergency AD 2001-01-51, issued January 5, 2001, which contained the requirements of this amendment.

Note 3: The subject of this AD is addressed in Transport Canada (Canada) AD CF-2000-29, dated September 6, 2000.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on February 2, 2001.

Eric Bries,

*Acting Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 01-3561 Filed 2-14-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

22 CFR Parts 41 and 42

[Public Notice 3570]

Documentation of Immigrants and Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended—Refusal of Individual Visas

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Interim rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: This rule adds two additional grounds of ineligibility for a visa for certain nonimmigrants to the listing of those serving as bases for the refusal of nonimmigrant visas by consular officers. It adds one of those to the regulation relating to crewmen. Moreover, the rule adds another relatively new restriction on the place of application for aliens who have overstayed the allowable period in the United States. Finally, in the interest of consistency between the rules relating to nonimmigrants and immigrants, it also adds the appropriate listing of bases for refusal of immigrant visas. There are some editorial changes to the current nonimmigrant rule on refusals for the purpose of clarification and to incorporate by reference the essence of the legislation underlying the procedures described therein.

DATES: Effective February 15, 2001. Written comments may be submitted through April 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted, in duplicate, to the Chief, Legislation and Regulations Division, Visa Services, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520-0106.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: H. Edward Odom, Chief, Legislation and Regulations Division, Visa Services, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520-0106, (202) 663-1204, e-mail odomhe@state.gov, or fax at (202) 663-3898.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public Laws 101-649, Immigration Act of 1990, and 104-298, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, added two new grounds of ineligibility to those already in the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, (INA). Each is classification-specific, not a generic ineligibility such

as most of those found in INA 212(a). It also added a provision invalidating the visa of a person who had overstayed the authorized period of stay in the United States and requiring such an alien to apply in his/her home country for a new visa except under certain authorized circumstances (INA 222(g)).

What Classes Are Affected?

The first of the new ineligibilities relates to crewmen. As set forth in INA 214(f), it makes an alien unclassifiable as a crewman under INA 101(a)(15)(D) if the alien intends to land for the purpose of joining a vessel or aircraft during a labor dispute where there is a strike or lockout involving the employer and the bargaining unit of the employer. This provision is also reflected in an amendment of 22 CFR 41.41, Crewmen, which is included herein.

The other such provision, which is found in INA 214(l)—the second (l) in INA 214—relates to students. It denies an alien classification as a student under INA 101(a)(15)(F)(1) for the purpose of study at a public elementary or publicly-funded adult education program, or at a public secondary school unless the total period of stay in the latter educational institution is less than one year and the student has fully reimbursed the school for the costs of such education. Students who have been admitted in F-1 status for attendance at private schools and then transfer to a public school have, under this provision, violated their status unless the student has reimbursed the school as noted above. The seriousness of this provision is reinforced in a new INA 212(a)(6)(G), which makes an individual who violated student status under INA 214(l) inadmissible for five years after the date of the violation. Although not specifically included in the regulation covering INA 212(a)(6)(G) at 22 CFR 40.67, the terms of INA 214(l) were described in the supplementary information in the interim rule published at 62 FR 67564, December 29, 1997.

The essence of the INA 222(g) provision is set forth above.

So Why This Rule Now?

This rule is being promulgated for the primary purpose of adding those INA 214(f) and (l) citations to an existing regulation, 22 CFR 41.121, which lists the permissible grounds for denial of a nonimmigrant visa application. The necessity for so doing also provides an opportunity to include editorial revisions in paragraph (b) for the purpose of greater clarity and noting by reference the statutory basis for the refusal procedures, and to add, again by

reference, the gist of INA 214(f) to the crewman regulations. No substantive changes to past and/or current procedures are intended by the revisions in subsection 41.121(b).

The refusal regulation with respect to immigrant visa applicants equivalent to section 41.121, namely 22 CFR 42.81, does not now correspondingly specify the applicable grounds of refusal in immigrant cases. This rule inserts such data in the interest of consistency.

Finally, the regulation at 41.122, Grounds of Revocation of a Visa, does not now include INA 222(g), which is being added by reference in this rule.

Regulatory Analysis and Notices

Administrative Procedure Act

The Department is publishing this rule as an interim rule, with a 60-day provision for post-promulgation public comments, based on the "good cause" exceptions set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B) and 553(d)(3). The provisions of law being referred to in this rule became effective on January 28, 1991, in the case of a crewman proceeding to a job which is involved in a strike or lockout, and, in the case of student visa abusers, on November 29, 1996. More importantly, the rule makes no substantive changes in visa operations.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

Pursuant to § 605 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Department has assessed the potential impact of this rule, and the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs hereby certifies that is not expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This rule will not result in the expenditure by State, local and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million in any year and it will not significantly or uniquely affect small governments. Therefore, no actions were deemed necessary under the provisions of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996

This rule is not a major rule as defined by section 804 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Act of 1996. This rule will not result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more; a major increase in costs or prices; or significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based