



INFORMATION LETTER

205B-14-23
10 July 2014

TO: All owners and operators of Model 205B helicopters

**SUBJECT: MAIN ROTOR GRIPS 204-011-121-009/-121 LIFE LIMITATION PER
FAA AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE 2014-12-04.**

The FAA recently released the AD 2014-12-04 introducing a life limitation for the subject main rotor grips. Bell Helicopter Textron (BHT) has received several inquiries from operators requesting main rotor grip manufacturing or delivery history. At time of manufacture, these main rotor grips did not have a retirement life limitation; therefore there was no requirement for BHT to retain serialized manufacturing records. Some of the affected main rotor grips have the serial number prefix "A" indicating that they were manufactured by BHT. For the majority of these main rotor grips that have a serial number prefix "A", BHT has manufacturing records. Some other main rotor grips, that have a serial number prefix other than "A", were manufactured by BHT approved suppliers. For these main rotor grips, BHT has limited or no manufacturing records.

In the absence of manufacturing records or time-in-service history, the affected main rotor grips will require removal from service in accordance with the FAA Airworthiness Directive requirements. BHT anticipates that this FAA main rotor grip life limitation requirement will generate a significant increase in demand for the replacement main rotor grip 204-011-121-125. The main rotor grip is a long lead time item; therefore BHT highly recommends that operators place their orders for replacement main rotor grips no later than the end of August 2014. Operators that fail to place their orders before the end of August 2014 run the risk of not having replacement grips available when needed.

For any questions regarding this letter, please contact:

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