

Safety Notice SN-33

Issued: March 1998

Revised: July 2013; July 2021

DRIVE BELT SLACK

Pilots must ensure R22 and R44 drive belts are not too loose during engine start. Loose belts may jump out of their sheave grooves while being tensioned, but the pilot has no way of observing this. Therefore, the following checklist items are very important.

1. Per preflight checklist, with clutch disengaged, deflect belts inboard just above fan scroll on aircraft right side. Verify a maximum of 1.5 inches (4 cm) deflection. If belts deflect further, have belt tension actuator adjusted prior to flight.
2. Per run-up checklist, verify rotor turns within 5 seconds of clutch engagement. If time is longer, shut down and have belt tension actuator adjusted prior to flight.