

Robinson Helicopter Company

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MANDATORY SERVICE BULLETIN SB-13

DATE: September 4, 1981

TO: All Owners and Operators of Robinson R22 Helicopters

SUBJECT: Main Rotor Root Fitting Fatigue Failure

ROTORCRAFT AFFECTED: All R22 Helicopters

TIME FOR COMPLIANCE: Immediate

Background: A main rotor root fitting failed in fatigue on an R22 after 691 hours in service causing a serious accident. Approximately 20 hours prior to failure, the aircraft started having main rotor balance problems. The out-of-balance became too severe to be corrected by adjusting chord weights and the rotor head was finally shimmed to one side by .015 inches to correct the balance. The aircraft was returned to service and the fatigue failure occurred several hours later.

Corrective Action: Immediately reduce the fatigue service life of all A016-1, Rev A through V, Main Rotor Blades to 300 hours.

Additional Precaution: During operation of blades with less than 300 hours in service, should any unusual out-of-balance condition occur, immediately ground the aircraft and contact the factory for inspection or replacement procedures to be followed.

FAA APPROVED: September 4, 1981