

M A N D A T O R Y  
SERVICE BULLETIN #33

Date: 25 July 1983

\*To: R22 Owners and Operators

\*Subject: Mandatory Replacement of Old Design Rev W (1000 hr)  
Main Rotor Blades

\*Rotorcraft Affected: Aircraft still equipped with Rev W (1000 hr)  
Main Rotor Blades (Blade S/N 0810 or prior)

\*Time for Compliance: Immediate - Prior to next flight

Background: On June 1, 1982, June 24, 1982, and February 19, 1983, letters were sent to R22 Owners still flying old design Rev W blades advising them that those particular blades had a much lower safety margin than the current production blades. Blades of the new design were offered at a 60% discount if owners would retire the old Rev W blades early. Most of them were removed from service, but a few were not. Now, an aircraft still equipped with the old design blades has been involved in a serious accident. The cause of the accident is still under investigation, but the Rev W blade is suspected. The broken blade had been in service approximately 950 hours and was due for replacement in only 50 more hours.

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Compliance Procedure:

- \*1. Check the identification plates on both main rotor blades to determine if they are A016-1 Rev W, or prior, (blade S/N 0001 thru 0810). If they are, ground aircraft immediately and proceed to step 2. If not, return aircraft to service.
- \*2. Remove blades from helicopter per section 9.100 of the R22 Maintenance Manual. Mark all blades S/N 0001 thru 0810 with "UNAIRWORTHY" on the blade upper surface at the approximate mid-span with lettering at least 2 inches high.

\* Above Items FAA APPROVED.

3. Return blade assemblies to factory for replacement. You may cut off and return only the first two feet of the root end. Your present spindles, pitch horns, etc. will be transferred to the new blades.
4. It is recommended that you also return your hub assembly so it can be inspected and balanced with the new blades.

Cost:

If prepayment is received with the old blades, they will be discounted to a factory selling price of \$3,680 per set of two blades.