

R44

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SERVICE BULLETIN SB-57

DATE: 29 March 2006

TO: All R44 Owners, Operators, and Service Centers

SUBJECT: KI-176 R44 Tailpipe Extension Kit

ROTORCRAFT AFFECTED: R44 and R44 II helicopters with KI-176 tailpipe extension kit installed (reference R44 Service Letter SL-27).

TIME OF COMPLIANCE: Within next 100 flight hours or by 31 May 2006, whichever occurs first, and at each 100 hour inspection thereafter.

BACKGROUND: RHC has received reports of tailpipe extensions coming loose in service. A loose extension could come off in flight and strike the tail rotor, possibly resulting in a catastrophic accident. Extensions must be periodically inspected for security and removed if loose.

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COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE:

1. Inspect tailpipe extension, paying particular attention to the five attach rivets.
2. If any loose rivets are found, drill out all rivets and remove extension.

CAUTION

Do not allow rivets to drop into tailpipe as they may be ejected toward tail rotor or personnel at next engine start.

3. Make appropriate maintenance record entries.

Approximate Cost:

Parts: None required. C169-3 (O-540 engine) or C169-32 (IO-540 engine) muffler assemblies which incorporate squared-off tailpipe exits are available.