



SERVICE LETTER

DATE: 22 SEPTEMBER 1995

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TO: All Owners and Operators of McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems (MDHS) MD900 Series Helicopters.

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT MODIFICATION LIMITATIONS AND STC INSTALLATIONS.

MDHS has received reports that MD900 helicopters are being modified by STC holders in a manner that may be affecting the structural integrity of the airframe and the fire safety provisions. Such modifications could jeopardize continued compliance with various FAA regulations to which the MD900 was type certified. Modifications to the MD900 airframe by altering, modifying by drilling holes, or installing kits not approved as part of the type design is not allowed without adequate substantiation submitted to the FAA by the STC applicant. Such alterations could pose potential safety problems.

Many design aspects of the MD900 cannot be modified or changed. Some of those design features are as follows:

Fire safety protection consists of flammable fluid containment devices (shields, deflectors, drip pans, etc.), shrouded fuel lines, flame resistant flexible oil bleed air and hydraulic lines, and secondary locking devices on all flammable fluid lines (FAR 27.861 and 27.863).

Structural Integrity is another design consideration. The MD900 is certified to FAR 27, Amendment 26. Particular attention should be given to FAR 27.561 (emergency landing) and FAR 27.562 (crash attenuating seats). The composite airframe structure must not be modified without adding reinforcement to return the modified structure to original strength. Areas requiring particular attention include:

1. The fuselage shell around the baggage compartment from station 230 (aft cabin frame) to the tailboom attach frame.
2. The cabin and baggage compartment floors.

Tailboom modifications are not allowed in the composite structure between the metal fuselage attach frame and the metal empennage attach frames. Modifications may be made to the tailboom fairing below the horizontal stabilizer.



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POINTS OF CONTACT: Please contact the MDHS Field Service Department for assistance with recommended materials and processes for modifications.
Telephone: 1-800-388-3378 or (602) 891-6342. DATAFAX: (602) 891-6782.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Reagan' with a horizontal line extending from the end.

John Reagan, Dept. Manager,
Commercial Customer Support
McDonnell Douglas
Helicopter Systems