

# FAA Airworthiness Directive

**94-24-04 McDONNELL DOUGLAS HELICOPTER SYSTEMS (MDHS) and HUGHES HELICOPTERS, INC. (HUGHES):** Amendment 39-9077. Docket No. 94-SW-13-AD.

**Applicability:** Model 369D, E, F, and FF series helicopters with pitch control assembly, part number (P/N) 369D21800 or P/N 369D21820, installed, certificated in any category.

**Compliance:** Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent failure of the inner tang of the pitch control assembly lockwasher (lockwasher), loss of the locknut, disengagement of the pitch control assembly, loss of tail rotor control, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 25 hours time-in-service or 90 calendar days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first, remove the tail rotor (T/R) assembly and pitch control assembly from the T/R gearbox in accordance with the applicable maintenance manual.

(b) Inspect the lockwasher, P/N MS172209, for dents in either side of the inner tang inside radius as shown in Figure 1 of MDHS Service Information Notice (SIN) No. DN-185, EN-78, and FN-64, dated September 23, 1994, using a 5x or higher magnifying glass.

(c) Apply a 0.125 inch-wide torque stripe to the surface of the locknut and swashplate in accordance with paragraph B and C of Part II of MDHS SIN No. DN-185, EN-78, and FN-64, dated September 23, 1994, and reinstall the T/R assembly and pitch control assembly into the T/R gearbox in accordance with the applicable maintenance manual.

(d) Inspect the torque stripe for slippage at intervals not to exceed 100 hours time-in-service. If any slippage is detected, replace the lockwasher with an airworthy lockwasher in accordance with the applicable maintenance manual. Reapply the 0.125 inch-wide torque stripe to the surface of the locknut and swashplate.

(e) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used when approved by the Manager, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, FAA. Operators shall submit their requests through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may concur or comment and then send it to the Manager, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office.

**NOTE:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office.

(f) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the helicopter to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

(g) The inspections shall be done in accordance with McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems Service Information Notice No. DN-185, EN-78, and FN-64, dated September 23, 1994. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems, Technical Publications, Bldg. 543/B111, 5000 E. McDowell Road, Mesa, Arizona 85205-9797. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Office of the Assistant Chief Counsel, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

(h) This amendment becomes effective on December 13, 1994.