

FAA Airworthiness Directive

95-03-11 McDONNELL DOUGLAS HELICOPTER SYSTEMS AND HUGHES HELICOPTERS, INC.:
Amendment 39-9147. Docket No. 94-SW-21-AD.

Applicability: Model 369, OH-6A, and YOH-6A series helicopters, with tail rotor blade assemblies, part number (P/N) 369A1613-7, 369A1613-503, 369A1613-505, 369A1613-509, 369D21606, 369D21606-509, 369D21613-11, 369D21613-31, 369D21613-41, 369D21613-51, 369D21613-71, 369D21615, 369D21615-21, 369D21615-41, or 421-088, installed, certificated in any category.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent loss of the abrasion strip, separation of a tail rotor blade, separation of the tail rotor gearbox, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 25 hours time-in-service (TIS) or 90 calendar days, whichever occurs first, and thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 100 hours TIS, inspect the tail rotor blade abrasion strip for debonding from the tail rotor blade. Prior to conducting the repetitive inspections, remove any abrasion tape from the tail rotor blade.

(1) If the inspection reveals debonding, replace the tail rotor blade with an airworthy blade that has been modified by an installation of rivets, and install 304 stainless steel abrasion tape (.0027-inch thick) over the inboard end of the abrasion strip in accordance with steps B through H of Part I of the Accomplishment Instructions of McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems Service Information Notice (SIN) HN-238, DN-187, EN-80, FN-66, dated October 26, 1994.

(2) If the inspection reveals no debonding, install 304 stainless steel abrasion tape (.0027 inch thick) over the inboard end of the abrasion strip in accordance with steps B through H of Part I of the Accomplishment Instructions of McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems SIN HN-238, DN-187, EN-80, FN-66, dated October 26, 1994.

(b) Within 1,000 hours TIS after the effective date of this AD, replace the affected tail rotor blades in shipsets with tail rotor blades that contain the new-design abrasion strips in accordance with Part II of the Accomplishment Instructions of SIN HN-238, DN-187, EN-80, FN-66, dated October 26, 1994. Once the new-design abrasion strips are installed on the tail rotor blades, the tail rotor assembly P/N changes as follows:

Old Tail Rotor Assembly Number	New Tail Rotor Assembly Number
369A1613-7	369A1613-11
369A1613-503	369A1613-507
369A1613-505	369A1613-507
369A1613-509	369A1613-507
369D21606	369D21606-511
369D21606-509	369D21606-511
369D21613-11	369D21613-11N
369D21613-31	369D21613-31N
369D21613-41	369D21613-61
369D21613-51	369D21613-61
369D21613-71	369D21613-61
369D21615	369D21615-N
369D21615-21	369D21615-31
369D21615-41	369D21615-31
421-088	421-088-11

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(c) Installation of tail rotor blades with new-design abrasion strips installed in accordance with Part II of the Accomplishment Instructions of SIN HN-238, DN-187, EN-80, FN-66, dated October 26, 1994, constitutes a terminating action for the requirements of this AD.

(d) 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.

(e) 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, provided there is no evidence of debonding of the abrasion strip at any point along the entire abrasion strip bond line of the tail rotor blades.

(f) The modification and replacement shall be done in accordance with McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems Service Information Notice HN-238, DN-187, EN-80, FN-66, dated October 26, 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. 530/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.

(g) This amendment becomes effective on March 1, 1995.