

AWB 01-8 Issue 1 - Use of unapproved parts from surplus military inventory on Civil Bell 206B helicopters

Effectivity

Bell HelicopterTextron (BHT) Bell 206B helicopters.

Purpose

Advise operators and maintenance personnel that unapproved military surplus COH-58 parts are being offered for sale to and represented as proper for use on commercial Bell 206 B series helicopters.

Background

The COH-58 is a military scout observation helicopter built by Bell under contract to the Canadian Government. BHT has been advised that a COH-58 main rotor hub assembly has been represented as eligible for use on a Bell 206B3 JetRanger. The claim is inaccurate.

Identifying Unapproved Parts

Bell Helicopter Textron advise that while there are some parts commonality between certain models of the Bell 206B and the COH-58, many of the COH-58 parts do not meet the Bell 206B type design, and are therefore unapproved parts.

In addition to this, the COH-58 components were maintained and overhauled under the Canadian Forces Technical Orders, not the Bell commercial maintenance and retirement documentation. The Canadian Forces Technical Orders do not constitute a Transport Canada or Federal Aviation Administration approved maintenance system.

This means that parts that are determined to be common parts, in accordance with BHT advice, are also subject to a review of the technical records for that part, and will require retirement or overhaul in accordance with Bell commercial maintenance and retirement documentation.

Assistance from Bell

Since there is some parts commonality between certain models of the Bell 206B and the COH-58, Bell

Helicopter Textron wish to advise operators and maintenance personnel that where more clarification regarding specific usage of ex-military parts is desired, to contact Bell Helicopter Product Support Engineering.