



Bell 47 / Hiller 12 helicopter - Wooden main rotor blades

AWB 01-024 **Issue :** 1
Date : 3 December 2012

1. Applicability

Bell 47 Helicopters primarily, but also Hiller 12.

2. Purpose

This AWB provides guidance about illegally modified Hiller 12 main rotor blades intended to be used as Bell 47 main rotor blades.

3. Background

Transport Canada issued Airworthiness Directive CF-88-17 regarding detecting bogus wooden main rotor blades fitted to Bell 47 helicopters in 1988. CASA issued AD/BELL 47-95 Bogus Main Rotor Blades which has been cancelled. The blades in question were in fact Hiller 12 blades which had been modified by butt welding a 325 mm extension on to the spar and apparently adding authentic Bell data plates.

The modification was well disguised and could only be discovered using a special radiographic technique as per the attached Transport Canada AD. Eleven such blades had been discovered in Canada up to the end of January 1989. It was also been reported that the FAA had discovered further bogus blades in the USA. The source of the blades was not identified. The number of such blades remaining in the market is unknown.

4. Recommendations

CASA considers that although possibility that these blades might be used in Australia is low, operators are advised to:

1. Be suspicious of any Bell 47 and/or Hiller 12 wooden main rotor blades that are "cheap" and not accompanied by a Form 1 or equivalent FAA documents that can positively identify the blades and trace the source back to the manufacturer.
2. Report any suspected unapproved wooden main rotor blades to CASA via the Suspected Unapproved Parts Report Form 1058.

5. References

- Transport Canada AD CF88-17.
- CASA CAAP 51-2 Suspected Unapproved Parts.



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6. Enquiries

Enquiries with regard to the content of this Airworthiness Bulletin should be made via the direct link e-mail address:

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or in writing, to:

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