



Painting R22 and R44 Main Rotor Blades

**AWB** 62-005 **Issue :** 1  
**Date :** 06 June 2008

## 1. Applicability

All Robinson Helicopter Company (RHC) R22 and R44 Model helicopters.

## 2. Purpose

To clarify the main rotor blade re-finishing requirements of RHC R22 Service Letter SL-56 and R44 Service Letter SL-32.

## 3. Background

Following a series of in-flight main rotor blade skin delaminations in the tip zone of certain main rotor blades, RHC issued SL-56 and SL-32 containing maintenance procedures to detect main rotor blade skin delamination and paint scheme refinishing instructions.

Some operators and maintainers of R22 and R44 helicopters in Australia have found that the refinishing scheme specified in these SL's may not provide the desired bond line protection under certain conditions and that the paint specified may be difficult to obtain. CASA has consulted with RHC certification engineers on the refinishing requirements contained in SL-56 and SL-32 and has been advised that the words "or equivalent" at Paragraph 7 of the Compliance Procedure, may be taken to mean any suitable two-pack polyurethane enamel or epoxy finishing scheme that can provide the same or better bond line erosion protection as the paint specified.

Equivalent also means a scheme where the primer required by the top coat for the selected alternate paint system is compatible with the materials used in the rotor blade.

## 4. Recommendation

CASA recommends that all operators and maintainers follow the RHC Compliance Procedures of SL-56 and SL-32 to ensure that the leading edge to spar bond line remains protected by primer and top coat that provide erosive protection equivalent to those specified in RHC SL-56 and SL-32.



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## 5. 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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