



Robinson R44 Hydraulically Assisted Flight
Controls - Correct Assembly

AWB 67-004 **Issue :** 1
Date : 24 March 2011

1. Effectivity

All Robinson Helicopter Company (RHC) R44 helicopters equipped with hydraulically assisted flight controls.

2. Purpose

To urgently advise all operators and maintainers of the subject R44 helicopters of the potential for loss of control resulting from insecure fasteners in the flight control system linkages.

3. Background

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) have released their preliminary findings into a fatal R44 accident. An extract from Investigation Number AO-2011-016 follows.

“Upon becoming airborne, control of the helicopter was lost and it collided with the runway and, shortly after, there was a fire. The pilot managed to exit the helicopter; however, the instructor and passenger were fatally injured.”

“Examination of the wreckage identified that a bolt securing part of the flight control system had detached”. (See Figure 1)

Figure 1



NOTE: The detached bolt is associated with the centre actuator. The actuators on the left and right show the correct assembly.

Picture: Courtesy ATSB report [AO-211-016](#).



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4. Recommendations

CASA strongly recommends that all R44 operators and maintainers inspect and confirm the security of the aircraft's flight control system bolts, clevises, rod ends etc in the flight control linkages, particularly those associated with the hydraulic boost servos, as soon as possible.

Any defects or other anomalies discovered during this inspection should be reported to both the ATSB on 1800 020 616 and to CASA via the SDR system, detailing the rectification action taken.

5. Enquiries

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

AirworthinessBulletin@casa.gov.au

or in writing, to:

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