



AIRWORTHINESS BULLETIN

Inadequate Maintenance and Illegal
Repairs Warnings - McDonnell Douglass
Helicopters (MDD) Model 369
DUSCHACK

AWB 01-022 **Issue :** 1
Date : 1 August 2012

1. Applicability

McDonnell Douglass Helicopters (MDD) Model 369 Helicopters - General.

2. Purpose

This AWB provides reference to an FAA Emergency Order of Revocation" issued in 1992 against "Duschak's International Helicopters in relation to MDD 369 main rotor blades.

3. References

- CAR 1988 regulation 36 (CASR Part 21M) Approval of aircraft components for use as replacements
- CAR 1988 regulation 42U Modifications and repairs: approved designs

4. Background

In 1992 the FAA issued an Emergency Order of Revocation against Duschak's International Helicopters. The revocation was based on illegal and inadequate repairs and modifications carried out by untrained and unqualified personnel in areas and on components covered and not covered by their Repair Station approval, as well as altered and falsified (counterfeited) documentation.

"The Duschaks admitted that they bought worn-out rotor blades from scrap dealers and the military, created counterfeit data cards for the parts, and then painted the parts to make them appear nearly new", Assistant U.S. Atty. Yvette Palazuelos said."

"There is evidence that the worn-out blades were marketed throughout the world over the past decade, Palazuelos said, making it impossible to track all of them and warn pilots of the danger. To date, she said, no injuries or deaths in the United States have been linked directly to the bogus parts".

5. Recommendations

The FAA recommended that "any blade which indicates an inspection by Duschak Ltd should be treated as a possible suspected unapproved blade". CASA strongly advises all helicopter operators/maintenance organisations to suspect any component overhauled, repaired, reworked or modified by Duschak. Where any doubt exists, such components should be immediately withdrawn from service, quarantined and a Suspected Unapproved Part report submitted to CASA.

6. 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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