



SCHWEIZER SERVICE LETTER

L-162
15 Apr 1997

SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE OF SERVICE NOTICE N-59, AD 68-21-05, AND AD 97-05-06 AGAINST 269A5050-50, -53, AND -73 MAIN ROTOR DRIVE SHAFT THRUST BEARING

MODELS AFFECTED: ALL 269A, TH-55A, 269A-1, and 269B Helicopters

REFERENCE: AD 97-05-06

Service Notice N-59 was issued by Hughes Helicopter Corp. on 09 Oct 1968 addressing service problems with 269A5050-50 and -53 bearings. The FAA issued AD 68-21-05 making compliance with this service notice mandatory. Hughes had corrected the deficiencies of the 269A5050-50 and -53 bearing installation by modifying the mast assembly, thrust bearing nut, and introducing the 269A5050-73 bearing under Service Notice N-76.2 (CKP-C-41). All 269A and 269B Series Helicopters can be modified to the 269A5050-73 bearing configuration by complying with Service Notice N-76.2 (CKP-C-41). AD 68-21-05 established a time life for all three thrust bearing part numbers. However, contrary to the Type Certificate Data Sheet, bearing 269A5050-73 was assigned a time life of 1800 hours instead of the approved 3000 hours. Schweizer Aircraft petitioned the FAA to revise AD 68-21-05 to show 3000 hours time life on the 269A5050-73 bearing.

Rather than revise AD 68-21-05, the FAA elected to issue new AD 97-05-06 in its place. In so doing, several errors were made which require modification in accordance with N-59 to the 269A1306-5 thrust bearing nut and 269A2014 steel thrust bearing housing installed under N-76.2 (CKP-C-41). There is no engineering data which requires or allows modification of those parts installed in accordance with N-76.2 (CKP-C-41). Also, as written, the new AD by omission no longer requires modification of the 269A1306 thrust bearing nut which is subject to N-59 and AD 68-21-05.


These errors have caused much confusion in the field on how to comply with AD 97-05-06.

SAC recommends that when the time comes to comply with AD 97-05-06, you contact:

Mr. Ray O'Neill
Airframe/Propulsion Branch (ANE-171)
FAA NYACO
10 Fifth Street, 3rd Floor
Valley Stream, NY 11581-1200
Phone: (516) 256-7505
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and receive approval, under the "Alternate Method of Compliance" paragraph of the AD, to certify that AD 97-05-06 was complied with previously by modification in accordance with Service Notice N-59, or if applicable Service Notice N-76.2 (CKP-C-41) as required by AD 68-21-05 and that the applicable aircraft records have been changed denoting the time life change of the 269A5050-73 bearing from 1800 hours to 3000 hours.

SCHWEIZER AIRCRAFT CORP.


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Customer Support Services