

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION

NO. 97-159
September 3, 1998

AFFECTED HELICOPTERS:

Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc., (BHTI) Model 47 series and Model 204 Series Helicopters.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Unapproved Parts Notification is to advise all helicopter owners, operators, and maintenance entities that parts produced by Agusta, of Cascina Costa, Italy, are not eligible for installation on U.S. registered and U.S. type certificated BHTI products.

BACKGROUND:

During the course of an unapproved parts investigation, it was revealed that numerous parts were manufactured by Agusta for various military organizations. These parts were introduced into the U.S. and offered for sale as eligible for installation on BHTI Model 47 series or Model 204 series helicopters. No parts produced by Agusta for the above listed models are eligible for installation on U.S. type certificated and registered products even though the Agusta part numbers may be the same as BHTI part numbers. Some of these unapproved parts were subsequently shipped to parties located outside the U.S. with some parts accompanied by an erroneously completed FAA Form 8130-3, Airworthiness Approval Tag. The possibility exists that these parts could re-enter the U.S.

RECOMMENDATION:

FAA regulations require that U.S. type certificated products conform to their type design. Helicopter owners, operators, maintenance organizations, manufacturers, and parts suppliers should inspect their U.S. type certificated and registered helicopters and/or parts inventory for Agusta manufactured parts that appear to be genuine BHTI parts. If items are installed on U.S. type certificated and registered helicopters, appropriate action should be taken. If found in existing aircraft parts stock, it is recommended that the parts be quarantined to prevent installation.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

If a question exists regarding the manufacturing origin of a particular serialized part that may be considered for, or already installed on, a BHTI Model 47 or Model 204 helicopter, please contact the Bell Unapproved Parts Hotline at 1-800-BELL-250.

Further information may be obtained from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) shown below. The FAA would appreciate any information concerning the discovery of the above referenced unapproved parts from any source, the means used to identify the source, and the action taken to remove them from service or stock.

This notice originated from the Fort Worth FSDO, 2260 Alliance Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76177-4300, telephone 817-491-5000, fax 817-491-5014 and was published through the Suspected Unapproved Parts Program Office, AVR-20, telephone 703-661-0581, fax 703-661-0113.