FAA
Aircraft Certification Service

EMERGENCY AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

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DATE: April 27, 2007
AD #: 2007-09-51

This Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) is prompted by a report of an accident after the loss of a tail rotor blade. This condition, if not corrected, could result in the failure of a tail rotor blade and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

The FAA has reviewed MD Helicopters Service Bulletin No. SB369H-247, SB369D-204, SB369E-099, and SB369F-084, dated April 26, 2007 (SB), which describes procedures for inspecting the tail rotor blade assembly. The SB states that reports from the field have shown that there are tail rotor blades in operation with a machining defect. The SB further states that these blades have a sharp transition in the tapered end of the root fitting bore that can cause the tail rotor blade root fitting to fail.

This unsafe condition is likely to exist or develop on other helicopters of the same type design. Therefore, this AD requires the following, before further flight:

- Remove each affected tail rotor blade. Using a bright light, inspect the bore of the tail rotor blade root fitting.
- Replace each blade assembly that does not have a smooth radius.
- Identify the airworthy tail rotor blade assembly with the applicable SB No.

The actions must be done by following specified portions of the SB described previously.

This rule is issued under 49 U.S.C. Section 44701 pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, and is effective immediately upon receipt of this emergency AD.

2007-09-51 MD HELICOPTERS, INC.: Directorate Identifier 2007-SW-18-AD.

Applicability: Model 369 (Army YOH-6A), 369A (Army OH-6A), 369H, 369HM, 369HS, 369HE, 369D, 369E, 369F, and 369FF helicopters, with a tail rotor blade, part number (P/N) 369A1613, 369D21606, 369D21613, 369D21615, or 421-088, all dash numbers, installed, certificated in any category.

Compliance: Before further flight, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent the loss of a tail rotor blade and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, do the following:

(a) Inspect each affected tail rotor blade for a smooth radius as follows:

(1) Remove the tail rotor blade assembly by following the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraphs 2.B.(1) through 2.B.(3), Part 2., of MD Helicopters, Inc., Service Bulletin SB369H-247, SB369D-204, SB369E-099, and SB369F-084 dated April 26, 2007 (SB).

(2) Using a bright light, inspect the bore of the tail rotor blade root fitting by following the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraphs 2.B.(4) and 2.B.(5), Part 2, and Figures 1 and 2 of the SB.

(b) Replace each blade assembly that does not have a smooth radius by following the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraphs 2.B.(6) and (7), Part 2, and Figure 2 of the SB.

(c) Identify the airworthy tail rotor blade assembly with the applicable model of helicopter by following the Identification, paragraphs 3(1) through 3(4) of the SB.

(d) To request a different method of compliance or a different compliance time for this AD, follow the procedures in 14 CFR 39.19. Contact the Manager, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, FAA; Attn: John Cecil, Aviation Safety Engineer, Airframe Branch, 3960 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood, California 90712-4137, telephone (562) 627-5228, fax (562) 627-5210, for information about previously approved alternative methods of compliance.

(e) Special flight permits will not be issued.

(f) Copies of the applicable service information may be obtained from MD Helicopters Inc., Attn: Customer Support Division, 4555 E. McDowell Rd., Mail Stop M615, Mesa, Arizona 85215-9734, telephone 1-800-388-3378, fax 480-346-6813, or on the web at www.mdhelicopters.com.

(g) Emergency AD 2007-09-51, issued April 27, 2007, becomes effective upon receipt.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Cecil, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, Airframe Branch, 3960 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood, California 90712-4137, telephone (562) 627-5228, fax (562) 627-5210.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on April 27, 2007.

David A. Downey,
Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.