

2011-22-51 SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT CORPORATION (Sikorsky): Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-056-AD.

(a) Effective Date

This Emergency AD is effective upon receipt.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

Sikorsky Model S-70, S-70A, S-70C, S-70C(M), and S-70C(M1) helicopters with an intermediate gearbox (IGB), part number 70357-06300-044, with 100 or less hours time-in-service since new or overhaul.

(d) Subject

The Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC)/Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code is 6520: Tail Rotor Gearbox.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by an accident that resulted from the blockage of the internal oil passages of the IGB. The blockage occurred when a plug installed during coating of the IGB housing was left in the IGB oil passage. The blockage caused insufficient lubrication of the IGB, which overheated, seized-up, and caused a fracture in the output shaft that drives the tail rotor. We are issuing this AD to prevent loss of tail rotor drive and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

(f) Compliance

Before further flight, unless accomplished previously.

(g) Required Actions

(1) Borescope inspect the IGB for any obstruction in the oil passages. Borescope inspect in accordance with the following portions of Sikorsky Alert Service Bulletin No. 70-06-29A, dated October 11, 2011 (ASB):

(i) The Accomplishment Instructions, Section 3., paragraphs A.(1) through A.(3)(a);

(ii) Equipment and Materials and Inspection sections of Appendix 1; and

Note 1: This AD does not require returning any parts to Sikorsky.

(iii) Figures 1 through 10 of Appendix 1.

(2) As an alternative to the requirements of paragraph (g)(1) of this AD, disassemble the IGB and inspect the oil passages for any obstruction.

Note 2: Removing any obstruction from the IGB does not make it airworthy.

(3) If there is any obstruction in any oil passage, replace the IGB with an airworthy IGB before further flight.

(h) Special Flight Permit

Special flight permits are prohibited.

(i) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Boston Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the ACO, send it to the attention of the person identified in the Related Information section of this AD.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, we suggest that you notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

(j) Related Information

(1) For further information about this AD, contact: Mike Davison, Flight Test Engineer, Boston ACO, FAA, 12 New England Executive Park, phone: (781) 238-7156, fax: (781) 238-7170, e-mail: michael.davison@faa.gov.

(2) For copies of the service information referenced in this AD, contact Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, Attn: Manager, Commercial Technical Support, mailstop s581a, 6900 Main Street, Stratford, CT, telephone (203) 383-4866, e-mail address tsslibrary@sikorsky.com, or at <http://www.sikorsky.com>.