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RDIMS 8155234

Fred L. Jones
President & CEO
Helicopter Association of Canada
130 Albert St., Suite 500
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4

Dear Mr. Jones; *Fred,*

Thank you for your letter dated December 12, 2012, requesting an exemption for the Blade Torque Event exemption for MD 500 main rotor blade in which the current exemption is due to expire at the end of January 2013.

I am pleased to inform you that Transport Canada Civil Aviation will be issuing a new exemption from subsection 605.85(1) of the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs) in order to allow the performance of the Torque Event inspection tasks identified by the Helicopter Technology Corporation Maintenance Manual HTCM-001, which refers to the MD Helicopter Inc. CSP-HMI-2 Manual, Section 04-00-00, without requiring a maintenance release.

This revision to the purpose and conditions of the current exemption, i.e. removing the current reference to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2005-21-02, will broaden the exemption to cover the higher dash # M/R Blades manufactured after the ADs issue date.

Transport Canada Civil Aviation may consider a longer validity period for the exemption in order to allow for a new risk assessment to be performed so that a terminating recommendation can be developed. The Helicopter Association of Canada may be called upon to support this initiative that will be taking place within the next 18 months.

Since there is a possibility of a slight delay between the expiry of the current exemption and the issuance of the new exemption, the privileges associated with the current CAR 605.85(1) exemption may continue to be used until the issuance of the new exemption.

Yours truly,



Martin J. Eley
Director General, Civil Aviation

cc. Aaron McCrorie, Director, Standards