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LETTER TO OWNERS/OPERATORS NO 1485 ROBINSON R22 AND R44 SERIES HELICOPTERS CANCELLATION OF LTO NO 1442

On the 21st March 1995 the CAA distributed FAA Airworthiness Directives 95-04-13 and 95-04-14. Subsequently, by letters to Robinson Helicopter Company (RHC), the FAA approved an alternative method of compliance. These letters were distributed to all holders of Robinson R22 and R44 Flight Manuals in April 1995 by RHC. The alternative means of compliance is that pilots who have completed the awareness training specified in FAA Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) 73, *and* who have at least 200 flight hours in helicopters, at least 50 hours of which are in R22/R44, are not subject to the Limitations specified in the ADs.

CAA Letter to Owners/Operators No. 1442, dated 1st May 1995, advised UK owners/operators that the alternative method of compliance was not applicable within the UK, and that the alternative Flight Manual pages which had been provided by RHC must not be inserted in the Flight Manuals of UK-registered aircraft.

CAA has now concluded that the awareness training specified by SFAR 73 is adequately covered by existing CAA-recognised flight crew training syllabi (see Aeronautical Information Circular 68/1995 (Pink 114)).

Based on this conclusion this LTO is issued to inform all owners/operators that:

The alternative method of compliance may now be adopted for UK-registered R22 and R44 aircraft. The alternative pages for the Limitations Sections, which were supplied by RHC in April 1995, may now be inserted in these aircraft's Flight Manuals. Provided that they have accumulated at least 200 flight hours on helicopters, at least 50 hours of which are on the specific type (R22 or R44) being flown, UK-licensed helicopter pilots are deemed to have completed the awareness training specified in SFAR 73, and are therefore not required to observe the additional limitations (1 through 4) specified on the additional pages.

Pilots are reminded, however, that AIC 68/1995 strongly recommends that all helicopter pilots should obtain regular awareness flight training with a flying instructor.

It should be noted that the wording of the Flight Manual text agreed by FAA and supplied by RHC is ambiguous, and could be interpreted as waiving the additional limitations for all pilots who have completed the awareness training, regardless of their flying experience. FAA have confirmed that this interpretation is incorrect.

Pilots must satisfy the minimum experience requirement of 200/50 hours as well as the awareness training requirement, in order to qualify for the waiver of the additional limitations.

This letter cancels LTO No. 1442 dated 1st May 1995.

Enquiries regarding this LTO should be referred to Mr R B Page, Rotorcraft Section (Telephone No 01293 573320) at the above address.


D J V LEWIS

Aircraft Maintenance Approvals