## **Safety Regulation Group**

Aircraft Certification Department

27 November 2006

Our Ref 9/97/CtAw/177

## LETTER TO OWNERS/OPERATORS NO 2951 ROTORWAY HELICOPTERS ROTOR BLADES

The Civil Aviation Authority has been made aware of a few incidents where raised, cracked and missing rivet heads on the outboard section of the Main Rotor of a Rotorway Executive Homebuild Helicopter were discovered.

It is recognised that these incidents, currently of indeterminate cause, can be detected with careful inspection prior to significant structural degradation. This coupled with the removal of defective blades from service means that safety of flight should not be impaired.

The CAA is in the process of seeking advice from the Helicopter Kit manufacturer. Whilst most owners will be aware of this problem via receipt of a letter from the Kit importer, Southern Helicopters Ltd, there may be some who are not in regular contact with them.

This Letter to Operators (LTO) is intended to ensure that all registered owners of Rotorway Helicopters are aware of the need to inspect their rotors closely at the recommended intervals pending an identified causal factor and corrective action.

Attached to this LTO is a copy of the letter sent to known owners by Southern Helicopters Ltd. The CAA strongly recommends that owner operators carry out the inspections included in the letter.

Owners are reminded that in the event of defects being found the helicopter should not be flown until Rotors have been replaced and an Occurrence Report should be provided to the CAA on Form CA1673.

Enquiries regarding this LTO should be referred to Alistair Maxwell (Telephone number 01293 573306) or at the address below:

## **Philip Coell**

Airworthiness Directive Co-ordinator