



SL369H-140
SL369E-071
SL500N-019
SL900-070

SL369D-119
SL369F-064
SL600N-017

SERVICE LETTER

DATE: 06 MAY 2010

PAGE 1 OF 2

HELICOPTER OPERATION IN VOLCANIC ASH ATMOSPHERE

Helicopter operation in volcanic ash conditions can decrease engine performance and affect operation of the helicopter. This depends on the type and concentration of airborne particles which could increase the possibility of navigation system failures, partial power loss, engine flame out or pilot instrument malfunction. Air travel in such conditions can also reduce visibility and increase the chance of erosion of helicopter parts.

MDHI recommends owner/operators avoid flight in areas of volcanic ash contamination.

Helicopter operation conducted in a contamination zone must be treated as flight operations in a sandy or contaminated atmospheric environment and specific maintenance requirements must be applied. The use of Mylar tape as noted in the references below is an option to reduce erosion damage. Engines operated in this environment can ingest increased foreign material. Refer to the engine manufacturer for detailed information regarding engine operation and maintenance in volcanic ash atmosphere.

MDHI recommends owner/operators hangar helicopters wherever possible.

Helicopters that are left outside should be covered to avoid any accumulation or penetration of particles and corrosive debris. Helicopters exposed to volcanic ash should be brush cleaned, have the crevices vacuumed, and be fresh water washed as if operated in salt water, sand, and dust environments. Owners/Operators should contact MDHI field service if unusual findings or unusual helicopter damage or reduced performance occurs during flight.

Reference:

CSP-HMI-2 Section 62-10-00, and 64-10-00.

TB900-006R1 Main Rotor Hub Pitchcase Abrasion Tape.

TB900-007R1 Main Rotor Blade Root End Abrasion Tape.

CSP-SPM Section 20-40-00 Corrosion Control Maintenance Practices.

CSP-A-3 Corrosion Control Manual.

Pratt & Whitney Service Representative. <http://www.pw.utc.com/About+Us/Contact+Us>

Rolls-Royce Service Representative. Toll-free (North America) +1-888-255-4766 or
E-mail: model250custsupp@rolls-royce.com

SL369H-140
SL369E-071
SL500N-019
SL900-070

SL369D-119
SL369F-064
SL600N-017



SERVICE LETTER

DATE: 06 MAY 2010
PAGE 2 OF 2

This page intentionally left blank!