

**McDonnell Douglas
Helicopter Company**
SERVICE INFORMATION LETTER

LETTER NO. HL-42
DATE 7 November 1975
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TO—All owners and operators of Hughes Helicopters

SUBJECT: RECHARGING OF INFLATION BOTTLES FOR EMERGENCY FLOATS

MODELS AFFECTED: All 500 Model 369H Series Helicopters equipped with
Emergency Floats

Reference

369 Series - HMI Appendix A, Issued 1 October 1972; Revision No. 4, 15 Dec 1974

It has come to our attention that some owners and operators have experienced difficulty in getting inflation bottles recharged after actuating the emergency floats installed on Model 500 helicopters. Due to a misunderstanding of federal regulations, some companies that perform recharging services have been reluctant to refill the inflation bottles.

The U. S. Department of Transportation has determined that it is permissible to recharge the high pressure cylinders used to inflate the floats. These cylinders are not transported in commerce for resale or considered as articles of freight or baggage, thus refilling the bottles is in compliance with applicable federal regulations.

The pressure vessel used to inflate the emergency floats has been designed and tested by its manufacturer, TAVCO, Inc., to meet the pressure requirements of MIL-R-8573. This specification is the military specification used to design light weight air bottles for aircraft applications. This inflation bottle has a working pressure of 3500 psig, a proof pressure of 5800 psig, and a burst pressure of 7875 psig (actual qualification burst pressure was 8350 psig). It is capable of cycling in excess of 10,000 cycles from 0 to 3500 psig.


Product Support Department

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As an alternative to employing a commercial recharging service, you may find it more convenient and/or economical to build your own charging unit, using a small, high pressure compressor; or to acquire a commercially available compressor system for on-site recharging of the nitrogen bottles. The Haskel Engineering and Supply Company of Burbank, California, for example, offers a portable compressor system for 'bootstrap' charging of onboard high pressure bottles for float inflation.

When recharging the emergency float cylinders with nitrogen or compressed air, refer to the instructions provided in the above referenced HMI Appendix A.



Edward Koch, Manager
Customer Service Department
Hughes Helicopters