THE ENSTROM HELICOPTER CORPORATION

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SERVICE INFORMATION LETTER

DATE: January 20, 2011

1.   SUBJECT: Blade Interchangeability and Identification

2.   MODEL: F28A, 280, F28C, 280C, F28F, 280F, and 280FX Helicopters

3.   EFFECTIVITY: All

4.   BACKGROUND:

Enstrom utilizes the same main rotor blade design for both the piston and turbine helicopters. Very small variations in blade profile and weight can determine whether blades will fly as "sets". While individual blades can be often matched, Enstrom recommends returning blades to the factory to match blade sets. Enstrom's procedures for selecting sets include initially matching blades by weight and profile. Then blade sets are flown on a piston helicopter and tracked. If the set can be tracked successfully on the piston engine helicopter, then the set may be installed on a turbine to determine suitability. Not all blades that can be tracked successfully on the piston helicopters can be tracked on turbines.
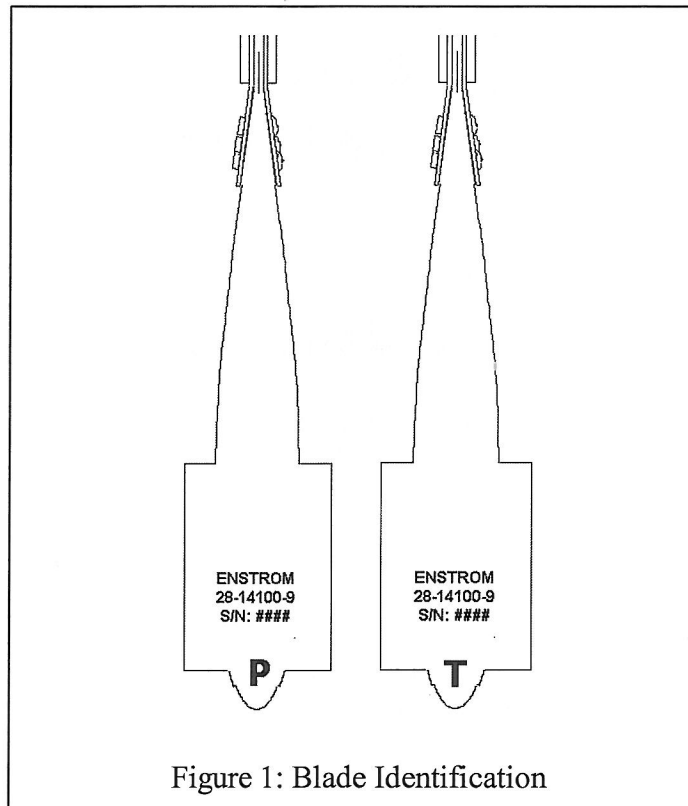
This Service Information Letter provides information regarding blade set identification and interchangeability.

5.   COMPLIANCE:

Enstrom is releasing the following guidelines for blade set interchangeability.

5.1   Identification: The root end of the main rotor blade has a part number and serial number stamp. Below this stamp there will either be a "T" or a "P" ink stamp identification (ref. Figure 1).

5.1.2   The "T" indicates that the blade set has been shown to fly successfully both on turbine and piston helicopters.

5.1.3   The "P" indicates that the blade set may not fly successfully on turbine helicopters due to the increased rotor RPM and gross weight of the helicopter.

Figure 1: Blade Identification

5.2   The "P" and "T" marks apply to the blade set. If the set is divided, the marks no longer apply.

5.3   Blades sets delivered on aircraft or as replacement sets after September 1, 2010 are marked in accordance with this SIL.

6.   PARTS: None

7.   SPECIAL TOOLS: N/A

8.   MAN-HOURS: N/A

9.   WARRANTY: N/A

10.   WEIGHT CHANGE: N/A

11.   LOG BOOK ENTRY: N/A

12.   REPETITIVE ACTION: N/A