



THE ENSTROM HELICOPTER CORPORATION
TWIN COUNTY AIRPORT, P.O. BOX 490, MENOMINEE, MICHIGAN 49858

SERVICE INFORMATION LETTER

SERVICE LETTER NO. 0024

Date: September 24, 1971

Subject: Main Rotor Blade Leading Edge Protection

Model: F-28A, All Serial Numbers; 280, All Serial Numbers

Compliance: As Noted

It is normal for the leading edges of the main rotor blades to show evidence of abrasion. Generally this will look as though the surface had been sand blasted; a frosty, "satin" appearance. The blade spar can tolerate this kind of abrasion.

In coastal areas, or wherever the air has a high moisture content, there exists the possibility of exfoliation of the spar extrusion. This is evidenced first by pitting or flaking of the extrusion surface at the leading edge and toward the outboard tip of the blade. This condition can progress to the point where deep penetration develops just below the surface. This does not compromise the structural integrity of the blade but impairs the aerodynamic efficiency at the blade tip where it is most important.

This possibility can be eliminated by applying a pressure sensitive polyurethane tape to the outer leading edge of each blade. In coastal areas it is recommended that the tape be applied when the helicopter is placed into service. In other areas it should be applied if any pitting or flaking is noted.

The tape is applied by cleaning the leading edge with a solvent and pressing the tape smoothly down on top and bottom of the outboard leading edge starting at the most forward point and working carefully back, being careful to avoid air bubbles. If air is trapped under the tape, a pin can be used to release the air bubble.

Normal service life of the tape is about 250 to 300 hours. It should be replaced if the bare blade is exposed through the tape. A set of tapes can be obtained from the Enstrom Customer Service Department for \$1.25 per lineal foot. We recommend that a minimum of 5 feet per blade be protected by tape.