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aerospatiale

DIVISION HELICOPTERES

DIFFUSION/ISSUE
AUSGABE/PUBLICATION

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Lettre-Service

No. 1060-05-91

V/REF
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MARIGNANE, LE

16.08.91

SUBJECT : ALL HELICOPTERS.

TIME INTERVALS : USE OF DYE PENETRANT INSPECTION PRODUCTS PROHIBITED ON ALL TYPES OF COMPOSITE MATERIAL BLADES (MAIN AND TAIL ROTOR BLADES).

Dear Sirs,

During investigations performed on blades returned to the factory for repair, we have noticed several cases where dye penetrant inspections have been performed on composite material blades.

All users are reminded that use of penetrant dyes is strictly prohibited on composite materials.

This method is not only ineffective due to the very nature of the material, but also dangerous for the bonding of the different layers (fibre glass or carbon) forming the blades.

Tests performed have shown a fairly important drop in the mechanical properties of bondings due to the presence of penetrant dyes.

Also, the presence of such a product may hinder further possible repair due to materials becoming contaminated.

We remain at your disposal for any further enquiries.

Yours faithfully,

H/CS.TCN
CUSTOMER SUPPORT, LA COURNEUVE

G. GAUDE

H/CS.TS
SENIOR MANAGER, TECHNICAL SAFETY DEPARTMENT

G. STIEVENARD