



SERVICE INFORMATION LETTER

SERVICE INFORMATION LETTER NO. 0145

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DATE: October 3, 1997

1. SUBJECT: Vibration and/or Main Rotor Tracking Problems on F-28C/280C, F-28C-2, and F-28F/280F Helicopters Equipped with Floats, and/or Operating at Gross Weights Exceeding 2350 Pounds, or Operating with Large Lateral Moment Arm
2. MODELS: F-28C, 280C, F-28C-2, F-28F, and 280F
3. EFFECTIVITY: All helicopters equipped with floats and/or certified to operate at gross weights exceeding 2350 pounds, or operating with large lateral moment arm.
4. BACKGROUND:

Enstrom received a report of difficulty in tracking a 280F equipped with fixed floats. An investigation revealed that the helicopter was equipped with a P/N 28-13104-1 main rotor shaft in the main rotor transmission.

NOTE: Increased main rotor shaft stiffness improves trackability.

Enstrom has had another report of a "C" model aircraft equipped with a large video camera mounted off the right-hand side of the aft cross tube experiencing high magnitude, low frequency vibrations. This aircraft was also equipped with a P/N 28-13104-1 main rotor shaft.

Enstrom cautions operators that have aircraft equipped with floats, cargo racks, or other STC'd equipment that create a large lateral moment arm that they may experience high levels of vibration, particularly in hover or in low speed flight. These vibrations are prevalent in aircraft equipped with P/N 28-13104-1 main rotor shafts. The vibration problem can be significantly reduced or eliminated by upgrading the helicopter with a P/N 28-13140-11 main rotor shaft. Continued operation without upgrading can result in premature wear and costly repair of dynamic system components.

5. COMPLIANCE:

Enstrom strongly recommends that F-28C/280C, F-28C-2, and F-28F/280F helicopters equipped with floats and/or certified to operate at gross weights exceeding 2350 pounds, or

have other STC'd equipment resulting in large lateral moment arm have their main rotor transmissions upgraded with a "heavy wall" main rotor shaft (P/N 28-13140-11) at their earliest convenience or at their next transmission overhaul. Enstrom has main rotor transmissions equipped with "heavy wall" main rotor shafts available as exchange units. The part numbers for the exchange transmissions are: 28-13101-101-RX, 28-13170-7-R, and 28-13170-9-R. Contact Enstrom Customer Service with main rotor transmission part number and serial number for determination on which main rotor shaft is installed in the transmission and details concerning the main rotor transmission exchange program.