

Attention Operators of Light Piston-Engine Helicopters

The first part of the Part 43 and 91 Draft Final Rule package is currently with the Ministry of Transport. It is expected the Minister will sign the final rules in June 2006 and set a date on which they become law. This is then promulgated in the *Gazette*. At this stage, July 2006 is the best estimate we have – the actual date, when known, will also be published on the CAA web site.

Some of the rule amendments deal with the overhaul of engines, propellers, and components. There is a new transition rule (Part 91 Appendix B) allowing 12 to 24 months for compliance with some of the 'new rules'.

The new rule (91.603) relating to the overhaul life of components allows the component to be operated "on condition" provided that the component is maintained to a programme accepted under Part 119 or approved under rule 91.607. It is this rule that will affect the operators of light piston-engine helicopters (such as Robinson R22/R44 and Schweizer/Hughes 269) being operated "on condition". The transition rule compliance requirements for these aircraft are as follows:

- Operators of aircraft that have exceeded the manufacturer's recommended TBO period in terms of hours in service will be required to overhaul the component before further flight, immediately the rule becomes effective. **There is no transition period.**
- For aircraft over the manufacturer's recommended TBO period in terms of calendar time, operators will be required to overhaul the components **within six calendar months** of the rule's effective date.

For further information, contact CAA,
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