

Continuing Airworthiness Notice – 51-004



MD 369HS and Kawasaki 369HS Helicopters – Upper Vertical Fin Crack

30 January 2023

Issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand in the interests of aviation safety. A Continuing Airworthiness Notice (CAN) is intended to alert, educate, and make recommendations to the aviation community. A CAN contains non-regulatory information and guidance that does not meet the criteria for an Airworthiness Directive (AD). The inspections and practices described in this CAN must still be carried out in accordance with the applicable NZCAR Parts 21, 43 and 91. CAN numbering is by ATA Chapter followed by a sequential number for the next CAN in that ATA Chapter.

Applicability:

MD 369HS and Kawasaki 369HS helicopters.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Continuing Airworthiness Notice (CAN) is to alert operators and maintainers of a significant crack found in the upper vertical fin of a Hughes 369HS helicopter.

Background:

This CAN is prompted by a recent report from a New Zealand 369HS helicopter operator who found a significant crack in the upper vertical fin of their helicopter whilst conducting a routine cleaning of the helicopter. Based on the helicopter maintenance history, the crack seems to have developed in a noticeably short time frame.

The crack appears to extend from the leading edge of the upper vertical fin to approximately two-thirds of the chord length, and it is understood that the fin spar is also cracked.

CAA are engaging with the manufacturer to find the root cause.

Refer to the photos below for further details.

Recommendation:

The CAA recommends that operators of MD 369HS and Kawasaki 369HS helicopters pay particular attention to the affected area during pre-flight inspections. If any cracks are suspected, operators should seek the advice of their maintenance provider before further flight.

If any cracking is found, report findings by completing a CAA005D and submit the completed form to the CAA at CA005@caa.govt.nz or report findings via the online reporting system available at <https://occurrences.caa.govt.nz/ProdUI/>

Please provide all relevant details, including the helicopters and/or vertical fin TSN.



