

## **SAFETY ALERT**

Issued: 3 June 2022

### **CORROSION AT TAIL ROTOR BLADE TIPS**

The aerodynamic tips of the tail rotor blades are bonded in place. Any corrosion in the bond area can damage the bond. If allowed to progress, corrosion can weaken the bond enough to cause a tip to come loose and be ejected. The most corrosive environment is salt air. Helicopters conducting oceangoing shipboard operations or operating near saltwater coastlines are particularly susceptible to corrosion, especially if stored outdoors. An ejected tip can cause enough vibration to result in failure of the tail rotor gearbox housing.

For all R22, R44, and R66 series helicopters:

- Refer to figure below. Use extra attention during preflight inspection of tail rotor tip area.
  - Bubbled paint can be an indication of underlying corrosion. If bubbled paint is observed at or adjacent to tip cap bond line, do not fly helicopter. Have maintenance personnel comply with latest revision R22 SL-93/R44 SL-82/R66 SL-40 prior to further flight.
  - If any portion of tip cap bond line is exposed, do not fly helicopter. Have maintenance personnel comply with latest revision R22 SL-93/R44 SL-82/R66 SL-40 prior to further flight.

