



# Interagency Aviation TECH BULLETIN



## OPERATIONS

June 13, 2007

**NUMBER:** IA 07-02

**DISTRIBUTION:** Aviation Personnel and Contractors

**SUBJECT:** Weight Reduction for Bell-407 Aircraft Equipped with High Skid Gear

**AREA OF CONCERN:** Helicopter Operations

It has come to our attention that users and operators of Bell 407 helicopters may not be aware of a weight reduction identified in the *Rotorcraft Flight Manual* (BHT-407-FM-1) for in-ground-effect hover (HIGE) performance.

The *Rotorcraft Flight Manual Supplement BHT-407-FMS-2 for High Skid Gear*, Section 4-5A, IN-GROUND-EFFECT HOVER, states:

Subtract 50 pounds (22.68 kilograms) from IGE hover gross weight for takeoff power or maximum continuous power.

This reduction is in addition to the 155-pound weight reduction required on the Interagency Helicopter Load Calculation Method required by most agencies. This affects HIGE performance of all BH-407 aircraft equipped with high skid gear.

### Recommendations:

Verify that the required 50-pound reduction has been subtracted from the gross weight capability from any HOVER CEILING IN-GROUND-EFFECT chart found in the *Bell 407 Rotorcraft Flight Manual* and associated supplements. For those using the Interagency Helicopter Load Calculation Method, ensure that the value recorded on line 7b (HIGE column only) is the "computed gross weight" value obtained from the appropriate HIGE chart, minus 50 pounds.

## FLY SAFE!

/s/ Allen P. Rice  
Chief, Division of Technical Services  
Aviation Management Directorate  
National Business Center  
U.S. Department of the Interior

/s/ Pat Norbury  
National Aviation Operations Officer  
Fire and Aviation Management  
U.S. Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture