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R44 Receives Russian Certification

Torrance, CA — On February 04, 2002, Vladimir Bespalov, Senior Vice Chairman of the Interstate Aviation Committee presented Frank Robinson with the Russian Type Certificate for the R44 helicopter. Irina Kozlova, the Chief Liaison with foreign aviation authorities, also traveled from Moscow to attend the presentation ceremony.

The Robinson R44 is the first U.S. manufactured helicopter approved by Russia and the other states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) which include Azerbaidjan, Armenia, Beloruss, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, and the Ukraine.

In December 2001, a highly-qualified, fourteen-member team from the CIS Interstate Aviation Committee spent a week and a half in Torrance, California at the Robinson Helicopter factory completing the Type Certification review for the R44. In addition to the Russian team, personnel from the FAA and an engineer from Lycoming, the powerplant manufacturer, participated in the technical review. The team's primary focus was to determine the differences between FAA and CIS certification requirements and to ensure that the R44 is in compliance with Russian requirements. Very few modifications were required to comply with CIS airworthiness requirements; new R44s exported to Russia will have altimeters calibrated in meters (instead of feet), and the heated pitot and artificial horizon (which are normally optional) must be installed as required equipment.

CIS test pilot, Yuriy Zimin, was very impressed with the flying qualities of the R44, especially its "easy autorotation characteristics." GALS Helicopters, the Robinson dealer in Russia, is based at the Myachikov Airport in Moscow. The company has already taken delivery of four R44s and has placed orders for three more. <http://www.robinsonheli.com>.

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