



# **In-flight Breakup**

## **Interim Statement**

**Accident Investigation**

**Robinson R44 II**

**B-KTK**

**Hong Kong**

**19 May 2019**

**05-2022**

In accordance with the Hong Kong Civil Aviation (Investigation of Accidents) Regulations (Cap. 448B), an investigation is in progress to determine the circumstances and causes relating to the accident involving a Hong Kong Aviation Club's Robinson R44 II helicopter (registration mark B-KTK) returning to Shek Kong Airfield from Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong on 19 May 2019.

Air Accident Investigation Authority (AAIA) is analysing the collected evidence and information.

A metallurgical examination and analysis was conducted on the upper rod ends of both main rotor pitch link assemblies. The results show that the fracture of each rods might have involved fatigue crack propagation.

On 18 January 2021, AAIA issued a Safety Recommendation to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States that they should urge Robinson Helicopter Company to review the service life and the continuing airworthiness requirements, including but not limited to maintenance inspection requirements, of the main rotor pitch link assemblies on Robinson R44 helicopters.

In addition, both pitch link assemblies were sent to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) of the United States for further examination and a report has been received by the AAIA.

The investigation team is in the process of completing the investigation taking into account the details provided in the NTSB report.

In accordance with paragraph 6.6 of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, if the report cannot be made publicly available within twelve months, the State/Administration conducting the investigation shall make an interim statement publicly available on each anniversary of the occurrence, detailing the progress of the investigation and any safety issues raised.

13 May 2022

## Air Accident Investigation Authority Information

**Check the Air Accident Investigation Authority website for information, reports and updates:**

<https://www.thb.gov.hk/aaia/eng/index.htm>

**The Air Accident Investigation Authority 24/7 Duty Investigator Hotline:**

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