

KAWASAKI BK117 Model Guide

KAWASAKI BK117 is a turboshaft helicopter family. The registry lists MBB as manufacturer and variants A-1, A-3, A-4, B-1, B-2, C-1, C-2, D-2 and D-3. The library row calls it a single-engine piston, which conflicts with the registry and the documents, so confirm the exact variant and configuration before you buy.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Family-level maxima: up to 13 passengers, up to 3600 kg MTOW, up to 350 nm range and up to 135 kt cruise. These are not figures for one variant.
- Approved gross weight depends on variant: 2850 kg original, 3200 kg A-3, 3350 kg B-2. Check which configuration the airframe is actually modified to.
- KSB-117-442 (mandatory) requires repeat main rotor blade thimble inspections: every 100 Fh or 300 Fh, depending on blade sweep angle.
- The BK 117 D-3 flight manual has an EASA-approved inlet barrier filter supplement that prohibits flight in icing.

VARIANTS AND WEIGHT CONFIGURATION

The service bulletin index lists upgrade paths between configurations. KSB-117-020 takes a 2850 kg helicopter to A-3 at 3200 kg. KSB-117-041 takes it to A-4. KSB-117-057A takes an A-4 to B-1. KSB-117-102 takes a B-1 to B-2 at 3350 kg. Ask for logbook proof of which modifications were done.

MAIN ROTOR BLADE THIMBLE INSPECTION (KSB-117-442)

This mandatory bulletin covers BK117, A-3, A-4, B-1, B-2 and C-1, for blades with serial numbers up to 4729. Blades with 1° sweep need repeat inspections every 100 Fh (tolerance 10 Fh). Blades with 0° sweep need them every 300 Fh (tolerance 30 Fh). Each inspection means removing the blade. Check the Main Rotor Blade Log Card and logbook for entries.

D-3 INLET BARRIER FILTER LIMITS

Per Temporary Revision 1 to the BK 117 D-3 flight manual (Dec 2021), the minimum air temperature is -25C with a bypass door closed and -45C with both open. Maximum is ISA +35C (max +50C). Select the filter to NORM before engine start if snow is possible. Hovering in blowing snow for longer than 1 minute is prohibited.

PERFORMANCE

Family Max Range Nm	350
Family Max Cruise Speed Kt	135
Family Max Service Ceiling Ft	18000

SAFETY NOTES

- Flight in icing or ice crystal conditions is prohibited in the BK 117 D-3 inlet barrier filter supplement.
- If the IBF CLOG TREND advisory appears (40% clogging), use the degraded-filter performance charts and continue flight.
- Flight in falling snow or sleet is prohibited when visibility from it is under 1500 m. Vacate without delay if you enter it inadvertently.