

BELL 204B Model Guide

BELL 204B is the 204B variant in Bell's 204 family. Registry data for the whole family lists turboshaft power, up to 16 passengers, up to 4700 kg MTOW, up to 117 kt cruise, up to 300 nm range and a 14000 ft service ceiling. These are family maxima, not BELL 204B figures. No 204B-specific flight manual or performance data was supplied, so confirm the figures against the aircraft's own documents.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Family-level maxima only (up to 16 passengers, 4700 kg MTOW, 117 kt, 300 nm). No 204B-specific performance was supplied.
- Main rotor blade P/N 204P2100-101 (all serial numbers) needs periodic root-end inspections under AD 2016-23-09.
- The optional Anti-Torque System for external-load cargo hooks is not approved for the Bell 204B.
- The library row says piston but the family data says turboshaft. Verify the actual engine and records.

MAIN ROTOR BLADE ROOT-END INSPECTIONS

Notice 204-2100-1R3 (12 December 2017) lists the 204B among the models affected. It requires cleaning and visual inspection of the main rotor blades, then repair or replacement depending on findings. It followed a blade found with fatigue cracking around the retention bolt hole. Compliance must be recorded in the Rotorcraft Log Book.

EXTERNAL LOAD AND CARGO HOOK

An Onboard Systems non-rotating cargo hook suspension system (STC SR00713SE) is listed for the Bell 204B. Kit design load is 5,000 lb and ultimate strength is 18,750 lb. Release is by cyclic switch, a manual foot lever, or a ground-crew lever on the hook. The optional Anti-Torque System is not approved for the 204B.

WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING

Confirm the engine type and the actual weights and performance from the aircraft's own flight manual, since the supplied data is family-level only. Review the logbook for AD 2016-23-09 blade inspections. If a cargo hook is fitted, check the STC paperwork, the release cable settings and any twist or cracks in the torsion/tension straps.

SPECIFICATIONS

Cargo Hook System Design Load Lbs	5000
Cargo Hook System Ultimate Strength Lbs	18750
Cargo Hook Electrical Release Capacity Lbs	15000
Cargo Hook Mechanical Release Capacity Lbs	15000
Cargo Hook Mechanical Release Force Lbs	18

SAFETY NOTES

- Failure to comply with the blade inspection requirements may result in loss of a main rotor blade in operation and loss of helicopter control.
- Do not use the cargo hook suspension for side pulling such as wire-stringing. The load must be lifted free of land or water.
- A Surefire hook needs the release switch held more than 1/2 second. For an immediate release, use the manual release.