

BELL 429 Model Guide

The BELL 429 is a Bell helicopter. Registry data for the 429 family lists a turboshaft powerplant, with up to 390 nm range, 150 kt cruise and 3100 kg MTOW. The supplied documents cover maintenance and avionics software, not a flight manual. Confirm variant-specific performance and payload from the aircraft's own manual.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Family-level figures only: up to 390 nm range, 150 kt cruise, 20000 ft ceiling, 3100 kg MTOW. Confirm against the aircraft's own manual.
- Check the Garmin GTN 750/650 software. Bulletin 429-20-64 upgrades 6.21 to 6.62, due before 31 December 2021, about 8.0 man-hours.
- Both GTN units must run version 6.62. Mixed software versions are not approved for service or flight.
- An Airfilm aft utility mount, if fitted, has 100 hour and 500 hour inspections and no field repair.

AVIONICS SOFTWARE STATUS

Technical Bulletin 429-20-64 (19 October 2020) covers GTN 750/650 units fitted by retrofit kit, serial numbers 57001 through 57429 with listed exceptions. Later aircraft have it incorporated before delivery. The GTX345R transponder kit (ADS-B IN and OUT) needs main software 6.62. Check the records to confirm the upgrade was done.

AFT UTILITY MOUNT (AIRFILM STC)

The Airfilm AFM-AM429-1 mount carries equipment such as video cameras, searchlights and infrared sensors. It is inspected visually every 100 hours and removed for inspection every 500 hours. Field repair and overhaul are not allowed. Look for the completed inspection checklists in the aircraft records.

WHAT TO VERIFY BEFORE BUYING

The documents give no variant-specific speeds, weights or fuel data. Get the flight manual and weight and balance data for the exact aircraft. Check the serial number against the bulletin's affected range, and check whether camera, searchlight or other third-party equipment is fitted.

PERFORMANCE

Max Range Nm	390
Max Cruise Speed Kt	150
Max Service Ceiling Ft	20000

SAFETY NOTES

- Dual GTN installations with mixed main software versions are incompatible and not approved for service or flight.
- Remove the aft mount from service for any crack, corrosion or bolt hole elongation. After a hard landing, inspect it for ground contact or damage.
- The library record lists the BELL 429 as piston, but registry data says turboshaft. Verify the engine type from the aircraft's own documents.