



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

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Safety recommendation: AIC 22-R01/22-1002

Addressed to: Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG

Date issued: 17 February 2022

Investigation link: AIC 22-1002

Action status: Issued

Introduction

On 26 January 2022 at 10:13 local (00:13 UTC), the Operator, Niugini Aviation Service Limited notified the PNG AIC via phone call of an accident which had occurred earlier that day, involving a PAC 750XL aircraft registered P2-BWC, owned and operated by the Operator. The AIC immediately commenced an investigation in accordance with Civil Aviation Act 2000 (*as Amended*) and ICAO Annex 13 standards, and dispatched a team of investigators to perform on-site activities the following day.

Occurrence

On 26 January 2022, a PAC 750XL aircraft, registered P2-BWC, owned and operated by Niugini Aviation Service Limited, was conducting a VFR charter flight from Kiunga Airport, Western Province, to Tekin Airstrip, West Sepik Province. The aircraft sustained a left main landing gear collapse during landing roll, and subsequent runway excursion at Tekin Airstrip. There were six occupants: one pilot and five passengers. There were no injuries reported.

Safety deficiency description

P2-BWC was found to have had a left main landing gear failure (collapse) at Tekin Airstrip runway 18 during landing 8 days after another left main landing gear failure (collapse) accident occurred at Tekin Airstrip, involving P2-BWE, another Niugini Aviation Services Limited PAC 750XL aircraft.

Both accidents occurring within a short period of time at the same airstrip and sustaining landing gear failure during their respective landing rolls, has caused alarm and elevated observed risks to safety of fixed wing operations to that airstrip.


The AIC believes that it is imperative that operators halt operations into Tekin Airstrip until a proper safety risk evaluation is conducted by the appropriate organizations. The Civil Aviation Safety Authority may be able to prohibit Air Operators' operations into Tekin until they are satisfied that minimum safety standards are met.

Recommendation number AIC 22-R01/22-1002 to CASA PNG.

The AIC recommends that the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG prohibit operators from conducting fixed wing flights into Tekin Airstrip until the responsible parties cause the airstrip to be re-evaluated and deemed safe for such operations

Action requested

The AIC requests that CASA PNG note recommendation AIC 22-R01/22-1002 and provide a response to the AIC within 90 days, but no later than 18 May 2022, and explain including with evidence how CASA PNG has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the Safety Recommendation AIC 22-R01/22-1002.

**HUBERT NAMANI***Chief Commissioner*

17 February 2022

CASA PNG response to Safety Recommendation AIC 22-R01/22-1002

The AIC did not receive a response from CASA PNG within the provided 90 days period.

On 26 April 2022, during a CASA PNG-AIC meeting, safety recommendation *AIC 22-R01/22-1002* was discussed and CASA PNG stated that they would provide feedback regarding their corrective actions on the 18 May 2022. The AIC did not receive any feedback regarding CASA PNG safety actions on the target date.

On 10 June 2022, during a CASA PNG-AIC meeting, CASA PNG stated that they would continue coordination with appropriate persons, regarding the safety actions.

On 21 October 2022, during a CASA PNG-AIC meeting, CASA PNG stated that they would continue coordination with appropriate persons, regarding the safety actions.

On 09 November 2022, CASA PNG provided a *MINOR PORTS BULLETIN*, which contained the NOTAM issued by NiuSky Pacific Limited, to PNG AIC in response to the safety recommendation that the NOTAM issued was effective on the 26 January 2022 at about 10:00 (local) following the accident of the PAC 750XL aircraft registered P2-BWC to prevent further flights into Tekin Airstrip. The airstrip was reopened for operation on 02 February 2022 at about 16:00 (local).

PNG AIC assessment of CASA PNG response

The AIC has assessed CASA PNG's corrective actions taken to address the safety deficiencies identified in Safety Recommendation *AIC 22-R01/22-1002* and notes that the corrective action addressed the safety deficiencies identified in the safety recommendation regarding prohibition of fixed wing operation into Tekin until the responsible parties cause the airstrip to be re-evaluated and deemed safe for such operations.

The AIC notes that evidence relating to the re-evaluation of the Tekin airstrip is yet to be received from CASA PNG.

The AIC assigned this response as *satisfactory in part* rating.

The AIC notes that the safety deficiency identified in the safety recommendation regarding the re-evaluation of the Tekin airstrip, remains.

The AIC has recorded the **Status of the AIC Recommendation: CLOSED**



Capt. Bouraga Aria, MBE
Acting Chief Commissioner

25 November 2022