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Our Ref: AIC 23-R02/21-1002

Safety recommendation: AIC 23-R02/21-1002

Addressed to: Hevilift (PNG) Aviation Limited

Date issued: 8 March 2023

Investigation link: AIC 21-1002

Action status: Issued

Introduction

At 12:14 local time (02:14 UTC) on 15 May 2021 the AIC was informed, via a phone call from Hevilift (PNG) Aviation Limited of an accident involving a Mil-8 helicopter, registered P2-MHM. The AIC immediately commenced an investigation and deployed a team of investigators to the accident site.

Occurrence

On 15 May 2021, at 11:14:21 local time (01:14:21 UTC¹), a MIL Mil-8 MTV-1 (MI-8²) helicopter, registered P2-MHM (MHM), owned by Captston Aviation PTE LTD³ and operated by Hevilift (PNG) Aviation Limited, impacted terrain following loss of control after take-off at Gobo, Jiwaka Province.

The VFR⁴ charter flight was carrying 75 bags of coffee to Mt. Hagen, Western Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea. Gobo is 30 NM (55.4 Km) from Mt. Hagen on a track of 073°M. The helicopter was destroyed by impact forces.

There were four persons onboard: two pilots, one flight engineer and one passenger. The flight crew sustained minor injuries and the passenger sustained serious injuries and was hospitalised for 54 days.

¹ The 24-hour clock, in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), is used in this report to describe the local time as specific events occurred. Local time in the area of the accident, Papua New Guinea Time (Pacific/Port Moresby Time) is UTC + 10 hours.

² Abbreviation MI-8 used based on the PNG CofA details, unless quoting a reference from an official document.

³ Private Limited company.

⁴ Visual flight rules: as prescribed by national authority for visual flight, with corresponding relaxed requirements for flight instruments (Source: *The Cambridge Aerospace Dictionary*)

Safety deficiency description

The investigation found that the PIC and the co-pilot had not satisfied the CASA PNG recurrency/recency requirements, including the requirement to conduct three take offs and three landings within preceding 90 days.

Furthermore, they did not meet the operator's *Operations Manual Rotary Wing (OM RW), Section 4.1 Flight Requirements* to complete no less than 5 hours of flight, including 5 take-offs and landings (single engine), or 10 hours with 10 take-offs and landings (multi-engine) in the make and basic type of aircraft scheduled for the air operation.

Recommendation number AIC 23-R02/21-1002 to Hevilift (PNG) Aviation Limited

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission recommends that Hevilift (PNG) Aviation Limited should conduct a review of its recurrent training program to ensure that adequate and appropriate flight training is provided to pilots and flight engineers who have not flown on an aircraft / helicopter type in the preceding 24 months, and that flight crew meet the specified recurrency/recency requirements.

Action requested

The AIC requests that Hevilift (PNG) Aviation Limited note recommendation *AIC 23-R02/21-1002* and provide a response to the AIC within 90 days of the issue date, and explain (including with evidence) how Hevilift PNG Aviation Limited has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the safety recommendation.



Captain Aria Bouraga, MBE

Acting Chief Commissioner

Hevilift (PNG) Aviation Limited response

On 25 April 2023, Hevilift (PNG) Aviation Limited (HL) provided evidence of their corrective action to address *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R02/21-1002*, which included the amended page 3-25 of *HL Operations Manual Part D – Part 136, Section 3 Content of Training Syllabi*, which states:

3.10.2 Multi Engine (ME) and/or IFR

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ME and/or IFR OCA also incorporate written tests covering relevant CARs, Company operational procedures, flight planning, aircraft systems, performance, emergencies etc. Records are maintained on forms HL-PNG-902A/B/C/E- *Operational Competency Assessment*, which are held on file in the pilot's Training and Checking records. Air Maestro will be updated to reflect currency.

OCA and/or Line Checks may also be required:

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- d. VFR and IFR Flight Crew who have not flown for 90 days or more are to complete a Line Check on return to flight duty status.

PNG Accident Investigation Commission assessment of Hevilift (PNG) Aviation Limited response

The AIC reviewed the Hevilift (PNG) Aviation Limited (HL) corrective actions to address *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R02/21-1002* and notes that the safety action addresses the safety deficiencies identified in the safety recommendation.

The AIC assigned this response as *fully satisfactory* rating.

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



Captain Aria Bouraga, MBE
Acting Chief Commissioner

1 May 2023

