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Our Ref: AIC 23-R17/23-1002

Safety recommendation: AIC 23-R17/23-1002

Addressed to: Helifix Operations Limited

Date issued: 10 December 2023

Investigation link: AIC 23-1002

Action status: Issued

Safety deficiency description

On 10 February 2023, at 13:43 local time, (03:43 UTC) a Cessna 208B Grand Caravan aircraft, registered P2-HFA (HFA), owned and operated by Helifix Operations Limited (Ltd), was conducting a VFR charter flight from Kiunga Airport, Western Province to Eliptamin Airstrip, Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea, when during the landing roll, the aircraft overran the strip and impacted the embankment of a drain which runs along the edge of the airstrip .

The onsite investigation observed two windsocks at Eliptamin Airstrip. One windsock is located at the south-eastern (departure) end of the airstrip, in the parking bay, while the other windsock is located at the approach end of runway 14. The investigation determined from interviews conducted that the pilot was unaware of the windsock (visual aid) located at the approach end of runway 14.

The investigation also found that there were variations in data between the Rural Airstrip Survey Report of Eliptamin Airstrip and the Operator's Operations Manual Part C, specifically the slope, elevation, and runway length. During the investigation, the AIC used the Appareo data to establish the elevation, slope and runway length of Eliptamin Airstrip.

Recommendation number AIC 23-R17/23-1002 to Helifix Limited.

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission recommends that Helifix Operations Limited should amend their Route Guide to;

- a) include information on visual aids such as windsocks. Although not a mandatory requirement, the investigation deems it necessary so that flight crew are aware of all visual aids at the airstrips and fully utilize them for safe operations.
- b) contain accurate aerodrome data; slope, runway length and elevation consistent with data from Rural Airstrip Agency Survey data for Eliptamin.

Action requested.

The AIC requests that Helifix Limited note recommendation *AIC 23-R17/23-1002* and provide a response to the AIC within 90 days of the issue date and explain (including with evidence) how Helifix Operations Limited has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the safety recommendation.



Capt. A Bouraga, MBE

Chief Commissioner

10 December 2023

Helifix Operations Limited Response to Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R17/23-1002

On 26 January 2024, Helifix Operations Limited (HOL) responded via email providing their corrective action to address the *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R17/23-1002*. According to HOL, the information contained in their *Fixed Wing Operations Manual Part C (Route Guide)*, was collected from the previously used Papua New Guinea Civil Aviation Safety Authority's Aeronautical Information Publication. HOL indicated in their response that they have agreed to amend their Route Guide and stated that it is important for operators to obtain most up to date and accurate information for airstrips as it directly impacts aviation operators.

HOL advised PNG AIC of the following corrective actions it has taken to address the *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R17/23-1002*:

- Helifix has made updates to its Route Guide to include the current data for Eliptamin Airstrip
- Further amendments will be made to the Helifix Route Guide as more accurate data becomes available in collaboration with Rural Airstrip Agency (RAA) for the responsibility of data.

HOL also provided evidence of amendments made to the *Fixed Wing Operations Manual Part C (Route Guide)*, particularly *Section 3 Airport Data, Subsection 3.24 Eliptamin*. The amendments showed that the RAA Survey Data for Eliptamin Airstrip was appended into HOL's *Fixed Wing Operations Manual Part C*, including information and illustration of Windsock location on the airstrip. The amendment also included information of *Take-off Weight Limitations* for the Cessna 208B Grand Caravan aircraft at Eliptamin Airstrip. Furthermore, a Memo, *OMC-01-24 – Eliptamin Airstrip Information Amended*, addressed to all HOL Pilots was issued on 17 January 2024 by HOL Quality and Safety Department. The Memo served as an awareness to HOL Pilots of the amendments made to the *Fixed Wing Operations Manual Part C* and as an advisory for all HOL Pilots to adhere to the amended information.

PNG AIC assessment of Helifix Operations Limited Response

The AIC reviewed HOL's corrective actions to address *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R17/23-1002* and notes that the corrective actions addressed the safety deficiency in the safety recommendation.

The AIC assigned this response as *satisfactory rating*.

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



Maryanne J. Wal

Chief Commissioner

8 February 2024