



ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

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Safety recommendation: AIC 24-R12/24-1001

Addressed to: North Coast Aviation Limited (NCAL)

Date issued: 27 November 2024

Investigation link: AIC 24-1001

Action status: Issued

Introduction

On 9 January 2024 at 08:30 local time (22:30 UTC), the AIC was notified by the Operator via email of an accident at Bungawat Airstrip, Morobe Province, that occurred on 8 January 2024 at 09:26 local, involving its PAC 750 XL aircraft, registered P2-NCA, owned and operated by North Coast Aviation Limited. The AIC immediately commenced an investigation and deployed a team of investigators to perform on-site activities on 13 January 2024.

Occurrence

On 8 January 2024, at 09:26 local (23:26 UTC), a PAC 750 XL aircraft registered P2-NCA, owned and operated by North Coast Aviation Limited (NCA) was conducting a VFR unscheduled passenger flight from Nadzab Tomodachi International Airport to Bungawat Airstrip, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea, when during landing, the aircraft experienced a loss of directional control on touchdown and subsequent runway excursion.

There were 13 persons on board: 2 pilots and 11 passengers (8 adults and 3 children). None of the aircraft's occupants were injured.

Safety Deficiency Description

The investigation found that eight (8) adult passengers occupied their allocated seats in the cabin and three (3) children, ages six (6), seven (7) and twelve (12) years old were each strapped to three (3) adult passengers in rows one (1) and two (2) in the passenger cabin with the same four-point harness¹ fastened around the child and adult passenger.

The investigation found that the seating arrangement for the children on the day of the accident did not conform with the operator's procedure for the carriage of minors on an aircraft.

The investigation also found that the operator did not comply with the manufacturer's requirement of maximum 8 in the cabin and *PNG Civil Aviation Rule 91.207* related to occupation of seats and use of restraints which has no allowance for minors/children between four (4) and fourteen (14) years old to be held by an adult who is occupying a seat or berth, and the child is secured by a safety belt attached to the adult's safety belt.

Recommendation number AIC 24-R12/24-1001 to North Coast Aviation Limited (NCAL)

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) recommends that North Coast Aviation Limited should ensure that appropriate provisions are in place to ensure that its pilots and ground personnel strictly conform to NCAL's policies and procedures, and the Aircraft Manufacturers specification, and PNG regulatory requirements relating to aircraft seat occupation and use of restraints.

¹ A four-point harness has two waist belts plus two shoulder straps that come down over the wearer's chest to attach at the center.

Action requested

The AIC requests that North Coast Aviation Limited (NCAL) note recommendation AIC 24-R12/24-1001 and provide a response to the AIC within 90 days of the issue date, but no later than 24 February 2025 and explain (including with evidence) how NCAL has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the safety recommendation.



Maryanne J. Wal

Chief Commissioner

27 November 2024

North Coast Aviation Limited Response to Safety Recommendation AIC 24-R12/24-1001

The AIC did not receive a response from NCA Limited within the 90-day period provided in accordance with *ICAO Annex 13, para 6.10*.

The AIC made a courtesy follow up on the recommendation on 13 March 2025. In response to the follow up sent on 13 March 2025, NCA acknowledged email on 1 April 2025 and advised that they will advise of the outcome.

The AIC made another courtesy follow-up on 13 May 2025 and 26 May 2025. However, no response on preventive actions taken has been received from NCA Limited.

PNG Accident Investigation Commission assessment of NCA response

The AIC will reassess the status of *Safety Recommendation AIC 24-R12/24-1001* upon receipt of NCA Limited preventive actions to the Safety Recommendation.

The AIC assigns NCA Limited response an *Unable to Assess* rating.

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



Maryanne J. Wal

Chief Commissioner

28 May 2025

PNG Accident Investigation Commission Assessment of Recommendation Implementation Status

The AIC has reviewed the status of Safety Recommendation AIC 24-R12/24-1001 and notes that despite the recommendation being issued on 27 November 2024 and subsequent follow-up correspondence, no evidence of corrective or preventative action has been received from North Coast Aviation Limited to demonstrate that the identified safety issues have been, or will be, adequately addressed.

Accordingly, the AIC has determined that it is unable to meaningfully assess implementation progress and will cease active monitoring of this recommendation.

The recommendation has therefore been reclassified from *MONITOR* status to *DORMANT, closed* status with an assessment rating of *Unable to Assess*.

The identified safety deficiency remains and has been referred to CASA PNG for consideration of any action it deems appropriate in the interest of aviation safety and accident prevention.



Maryanne J. Wal

Chief Commissioner

19 June 2026