



## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

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**Safety recommendation: AIC 20-R22/19-1004**

**Addressed to: CASA PNG**

**Date issued: 12 August 2020**

**Investigation link: AIC 19-1004**

**Action status: Active**

### Introduction

On 7 October 2019, at about 11:30 (01:30 UTC) a PAC 750XL aircraft, registered P2-ASZ, owned and operated by Air Sanga Limited, was involved in a landing accident subsequent to touchdown at the Efogi airstrip in the Central Province.

On 9 October 2019, PNG instituted an investigation into the occurrence by initially authorising the commencement of the investigation, and the appointment of an Investigator-In-Charge (IIC) in accordance with PNG Legislation, Civil Aviation Act (as amended 2016) and ICAO Annex 13 standards.

### Occurrence

On 7 October 2019, at about 11:30 (01:30 UTC) a PAC 750XL aircraft, registered P2-ASZ, owned and operated by Air Sanga Limited, was involved in a landing accident subsequent to touchdown at the Efogi airstrip in the Central Province.

The aircraft departed Jacksons International Airport at 11:10 on a VFR charter flight to Efogi with six passengers onboard. The flight was a VFR charter flight transporting six passengers and cargo.

According to the pilot, when he arrived at Efogi, the weather was fine with patches of cloud around the area but clear of his approach path. During the final approach, he encountered tailwind and several downdrafts. He subsequently increased airspeed and maintained his approach profile. Upon touchdown, the aircraft reportedly lifted back off the ground.

The aircraft remained airborne and travelled about 50 m above the airstrip before the nosewheel impacted a soft opposing face of a depression in the ground. The aircraft bounced as the nosewheel separated from the strut. As the aircraft returned to the ground the propeller blades struck the ground and the nose landing gear strut collapsed. The aircraft scraped on its bare nose for about 10 meters before eventually coming to rest.

The aircraft came to a complete stop less than 100 m from its touchdown point with its nose and cargo pod resting on the ground.

All the passengers and pilot evacuated without injuries.

## Safety deficiency description

The *Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended)* Section 66, states:

- (1) CASA shall establish a Civil Aviation Registry,
- (2) Copies or appropriate evidence of the following shall be recorded and maintained at the Registry,
  - (b) every current aviation document.

The *Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended)* defines aviation document as:

*A licence, permit, certificate, or other document issued under this Act to or in respect of any person, aircraft, aerodrome, aeronautical procedure, aeronautical product or aviation related service.*

During the investigation, the AIC requested CASA PNG for pilot records. CASA PNG was unable to produce the requested information, and stated that they were unable to locate the pilot's file in their registry.

## Recommendation number AIC 20-R22/19-1004 to CASA PNG

On 12 August 2020, the PNG AIC issued the following recommendation:

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) recommends that the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG (CASA PNG) should ensure that the Civil Aviation Registry contains all the aviation document records as required by the *Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended)* and that such records can be accessible and retrieved in a timely manner.

### Action requested

The AIC requests that CASA PNG note recommendation AIC 20-R22/19-1004, and provide a response to the AIC within 90 days, but no later than 11/10/2020, and explain including evidence how CASA PNG has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the safety recommendation.

**Status of the AIC Safety Recommendation: Active**



**Hubert Namani, LLB**  
*Chief Commissioner*

12 August 2020

## Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG'S response

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

On 1 July 2021, the AIC made a courtesy follow up phone call to CASA PNG Personal and Licensing (PEL) Division, and the AIC was invited to meet with the PEL personnel the next day, to discuss the safety recommendation.

On 2 July 2021, CASA PNG met with PNG AIC and Manager PEL Division who advised during this meeting that all Pilots, AME's and ATC licensing records are in the process of being digitized and will be supported by an electronic database that backs up the manual 'hard copy' filed records.

On 26 July 2021, a team of AIC investigators visited the CASA PEL Division and confirmed that CASA PNG has an electronic database that is backed up by hard copy files that was in the process of being populated.

On 6 August 2021, during a CASA AIC meeting, the recommendation was discussed. CASA stated that they were in the process of receiving the EMPIC<sup>1</sup> license. CASA PNG also stated that once the EMPIC licence was received, the PEL Division would appropriately file records on the EMPIC system.

On 26 January 2022, a PAC 750 aircraft, P2-BWC operated by Niugini Aviation Services Limited (NASL) and flown by the same pilot of the 7 October 2019 (AIC 19-1004), sustained the left main landing gear collapse at Tekin Airstrip, Sandaun Province, the AIC found that the pilot's personal file was not found held with CASA PNG electronic database or hard copy files.

On 25 April 2023, CASA informed the AIC that the migration of pilots' records to the EMPIC digital platform is ongoing.

## PNG Accident Investigation Commission assessment of the response from CASA PNG.

The AIC has assessed the CASA PNG response and noted that the migration of the pilots' records to the EMPIC electronic database system has not been fully implemented.

The AIC assigns CASA PNG response to Recommendation AIC 20-R22/19-1004 a *satisfactory intent* rating.

However, the AIC notes with concern, that on 24 April 2023, CASA PNG confirmed that the records for the pilot involved in the two accidents are not available on the CASA PNG digital platform, nor is a hard copy held by CASA PNG.

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



**Capt. Aria Bouraga, MBE**  
*Acting Chief Commissioner*

25 April 2023

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<sup>1</sup> EMPIC: Standard aviation software used by CASA PNG.