



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

AIC Head Office,
Level 1, NAQIA Haus, Portion 81, Morea Toba Rd, 6 Mile
PO Box 1709, Boroko 111
National Capital District
Papua New Guinea

Telephone : (675) 323 2911
Facsimile : (675) 323 2139
Email : hnamani@aic.gov.pg

Safety recommendation: AIC 20 R 27/19-1003

Addressed to: CASA PNG

Date issued: 2 October 2020

Investigation link: AIC 19-1003

Action status: Issued

Introduction

On 13 September 2019, at about 01:15 UTC (11:15 local time), an Airbus Helicopter BK117 C-1, registered P2-TAH, owned by Southern Cross Aircraft Engineering (SCAE) and operated by Tribal Aurora Helicopters (TAH) was on a VFR positioning flight from Buka Airport, Autonomous Region of Bougainville to Tokua Airport, East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea, when it impacted water approximately 2.7 nautical miles (nm) South East of Silur, New Ireland Province.

At 02:27 UTC (12:27 local time), the AIC received information from Manolos Aviation about the accident and at 04:31, PNG Air Services Limited (ASL) notified AIC by providing an Initial Notification Incident (INI) Report. At that time PNG AIC commenced its Investigation in accordance with PNG legislation, Civil Aviation Act (As Amended 2016) and ICAO Annex 13 standards.

Occurrence

On 13 September 2019, at about 01:15 UTC (11:15 local time), an Airbus Helicopter BK117 C-1, registered P2-TAH, owned by Southern Cross Aircraft Engineering (SCAE) and operated by Tribal Aurora Helicopters (TAH) was on a VFR positioning flight from Buka Airport, Autonomous Region of Bougainville to Tokua Airport, East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea.

The investigation revealed that during flight, the pilot encountered deteriorated weather conditions. Subsequently, he tried to divert but weather was further deteriorating as the flight progressed, to an extent in which the pilot was unable to maintain visual references.

While the pilot was manoeuvring to visual references, the aircraft descended and impacted the water approximately 2.7 nautical miles (nm) South East of Silur Airstrip, New Ireland Province.

Safety deficiency description

During this investigation, there were Findings and Safety issues identified by the AIC and listed In the Conclusion section.

Recommendation number AIC 20-R 27/19-1003 to CASA PNG

Date Issued: 2 October 2020

The Accident Investigation Commission recommends that the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG (CASA PNG) consider the findings and safety issues identified in the Final Report AIC 19-1003, disseminating the relevant information to the aviation community, and especially to helicopter operators, through Safety Promotion activities.

Action Requested

The AIC requests that PNG CASA note recommendation AIC 20-R 27/19-1003, and provide a response to the AIC within 90 days, but no later than 1/1/2021, and explain including evidence how PNG CASA has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the safety recommendation.

Status of the AIC Safety Recommendation: Open

Recommendation number AIC 20-R 27/19-1003 to CASA PNG

Status of the AIC Safety Recommendation: Open



HUBERT NAMANI
Chief Commissioner

Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG response to Safety Recommendation AIC 20-R27/19-1003

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

On 2 July 2021 CASA PNG provided a response to the AIC indicating that CASA PNG had published *Safety Information Bulletins (SIBs)* that were based on the safety deficiencies identified through AIC- investigations and other global safety issues concerning various helicopter operations.

On 7 July 2021 CASA PNG provided in *SIBs* to the AIC. None of the *SIBs* provided addressed the *Safety Recommendation*.

On 6 August 2022 CASA PNG stated that its Flight Operations Divisions team will provide the correct *SIB* to the AIC.

On 9 November 2022 CASA PNG provided a copy of *SIB No. 02/2022 PNG Helicopter Operations – Inadvertent Flights into the Instrument Meteorological Conditions (IMC) and Lost Procedures* to the AIC. CASA PNG stated that it had promulgated the *SIB* to guide all Helicopter operators in PNG, based on lessons learned from the accident investigation, AIC 19-1003 and earlier accidents.

AIC assessment of CASA PNG response

The AIC reviewed the documents and assessed that they fully addressed the safety deficiency noted in Safety Recommendation AIC 20-R27/19-1003.

The AIC assigns CASA PNG's response as *fully satisfactory* rating.

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



Capt. Aria Bouraga, MBE
Acting Chief Commissioner

21 November 2022