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Safety recommendation: AIC 22-R02/22-1002

Addressed to: Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG

Date issued: 25 February 2022

Investigation link: AIC 22-1002

Action status: Issued

Introduction

On 26 January 2022 at 10:13 local (00:13 UTC), the Operator, Niugini Aviation Service Limited (NASL) notified the PNG AIC via phone call of an accident which had occurred earlier that day, involving a PAC 750XL aircraft registered P2-BWC, owned and operated by NASL. The AIC immediately commenced an investigation in accordance with Civil Aviation Act 2000 (*as Amended*) and ICAO Annex 13 standards, and dispatched a team of investigators to perform on-site activities.

Occurrence

On 26 January 2022, a PAC 750XL aircraft, registered P2-BWC, owned and operated by Niugini Aviation Service Limited, was conducting a VFR charter flight from Kiunga Airport, Western Province, to Tekin Airstrip, Sandaun Province. The aircraft sustained a left main landing gear assembly collapse during landing roll, and subsequent runway excursion. There were six occupants: one pilot and five passengers. There were no injuries reported.

Safety deficiency description

P2-BWC was found to have had a left main landing gear assembly failure (collapse) at Tekin Airstrip runway 18 during landing. Eight (8) days prior to this accident, there was another accident at the same airstrip involving another PAC 750XL aircraft (P2-BWE) owned and operated by the same Operator (NASL).

Both accidents occurring within a short period of time at the same airstrip and both sustaining main landing gear assembly failure during their respective landing rolls, has increased concerns over remarkably common circumstances and factors. This includes the Operator of the two aircraft involved, NASL.

Additionally, following the accident involving P2-BWC (the second accident), NASL has announced that they have identified potential issues which caused it to suspend its operations and to re-evaluate the organisational aspects.

In light of these developments, the AIC believes it is imperative that the Regulator intervene with a full and thorough audit to ensure that minimum safety standards are being met.

Recommendation number AIC 22-R02/22-1002 to CASA PNG.

The AIC recommends that the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG ensure that appropriate action is taken to ensure it is satisfied that the Operator, NASL, meets the minimum safety standards before resuming normal operations.

Action requested

The AIC requests that CASA PNG note recommendation AIC 22-R02/22-1002 and provide a response to the AIC within 90 days, but no later than 26 May 2022, and explain including with evidence how CASA PNG has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the Safety Recommendation AIC 22-R02/22-1002.



HUBERT NAMANI
Chief Commissioner

25 February 2022

CASA PNG's response to Safety Recommendation AIC 22-R02/22-1002

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

On 26 April 2022, during a CASA PNG-AIC meeting, safety recommendation *AIC 22-R02/22-1002* was discussed and CASA PNG stated that they would provide feedback regarding their corrective actions on the 18 May 2022. The AIC did not receive any feedback regarding CASA PNG safety actions on the target date.

On 10 June 2022, during a CASA PNG-AIC meeting, CASA PNG stated that they would continue coordination with appropriate persons, regarding the safety actions.

On 21 October 2022, during a CASA PNG-AIC meeting, CASA PNG stated that the MFO team was yet to schedule s52 investigation with the operator, Niugini Aviation Services Limited (NASL).

On 09 November 2022, CASA PNG informed the AIC in response to the Safety Recommendation that CASA PNG is yet to schedule an investigation with NASL under *Section 52* of the *Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended)*.

PNG AIC assessment of CASA PNG response

The AIC has assessed CASA PNG's corrective actions plan to address the safety deficiencies identified in Safety Recommendation *AIC 22-R02/22-1002* and notes that the corrective action plan, when completed will address the safety deficiencies identified in the safety recommendation.

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

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



Capt. Bouraga Aria, MBE
Acting Chief Commissioner

25 November 2022