



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

Telephone : (675) 323 2911  
Facsimile : (675) 323 2139  
Email : [abouraaa@aic.gov.pg](mailto:abouraaa@aic.gov.pg)

---

## Safety recommendation: AIC 23-R16/22-1003

**Addressed to: CASA PNG**

**Date issued: 18 September 2023**

**Investigation link: AIC 22-1003**

**Action status: Issued**

## Introduction

On 5 October 2022 at 10:15 local time (00:15 UTC), the AIC was notified by CASA PNG about an occurrence which had occurred on 4 October 2022 at 15:10 local time (05:10 UTC). The occurrence involved a Bell 206 L3 helicopter owned and operated by the Summer Institute of Linguistics Aviation. The AIC immediately commenced an investigation in accordance with Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as Amended) and ICAO Annex13 standards and dispatched a team of investigators were dispatched to perform on-site activities on 07 October 2022.

## Occurrence

On 4 October 2022, at about 15:10 local time, (05:10 UTC<sup>1</sup>) a Bell 206L3 helicopter, registered P2-SIL, owned and operated by Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) Aviation, was conducting a VFR<sup>2</sup> charter flight from Aiyura National High School, in Ukarumpa, Eastern Highlands Province (EHP) to Nadzab Airport, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea, when during its line-up for take-off, the tail rotor (TR) blades struck a powerline. The pilot subsequently landed the helicopter back onto the ground.

The accident flight had six persons on board: one pilot and five passengers. No injuries were reported.

## Safety deficiency description

During the investigation, it was found that the pilot was initially issued with a PNG CPL (H)<sup>3</sup> on 20 March 2006 and a PNG CPL (A)<sup>4</sup> on 13 November 2008. Both licenses were issued under the Papua New Guinea Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), now Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Papua New Guinea (CASA PNG) since 2010. The pilot's PNG CPL(H) was a one-page licence, containing only the pilot's personal information.

The current requirement under *PNG Civil Aviation Rules (CAR) Part 61, 61.1 Purposes* states;

*This purpose prescribes the requirements for-*

---

<sup>1</sup> The 24-hour clock, in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), is used in this report to describe the local time as specific events occurred. Local time in the area of the accident, Papua New Guinea Time (Pacific/Port Moresby Time) is UTC+10 hours.

<sup>2</sup> Visual Flight Rules.

<sup>3</sup> Commercial Pilot Licence Helicopter.

<sup>4</sup> Commercial Pilot Licence Aeroplane

1. *the issue of a pilot license and rating in accordance with section 49 of the Act; and*
2. *the issue of a rating in accordance with this Part; and*
3. *the condition under which a pilot license and rating is required; and*
4. *the privileges and limitations of a pilot license and ratings*

#### **61.6 Specifications for Licences**

*Pilot Licences issued under this Part must contain:*

- 1) *Name of the issuing State; and*
- 2) *Title of licence; and*
- 3) *Licence number; and*
- 4) *Full name of the licence holder; and*
- 5) *Licence holder's date of birth; and*
- 6) *Licence holder's address; and*
- 7) *Licence holder's nationality; and*
- 8) *Signature of the licence holder; and*
- 9) *Authority and conditions under which the licence is issued; and*
- 10) *Certification concerning validity and authorization for holder to exercise privileges; and*
- 11) *Signature of the Officer issuing the licence and the date of such issue; and*
- 12) *Seal or stamp of Authority issuing the licence; and*
- 13) *Ratings and endorsements;*

On 9 February 2023, the AIC requested the Operator to provide any additional pages of the pilot's licenses that may contain the ratings and other information as per the specification pursuant to *CAR Part 61*. The Operator stated that there was no additional information on the back of the pilot's license as the type ratings were not a requirement at the time the licences were issued.

On 3 April 2023, the PNG AIC requested CASA PNG to provide the pilot records for the accident pilot. On 5 April, CASA PNG provided the pilot's records including his pilot licences. The PNG AIC noted that the copy of the pilot licences provided by CASA PNG were similar to the copies provided by the Operator.

The investigation observed that licenses that had been issued under PNG Civil Aviation Regulations in 2006, and this was common with most pilots who had been issued licenses during the time of CAA, was prior to the inclusion of *CAR PART 61, subpart 61.6 (13)*. Therefore, the investigation established that the pilot's licences were not in full compliance with the current requirements of *CAR Part 61*.

### **Recommendation number AIC 23-R16/22-1003 to CASA PNG.**

The AIC recommends that CASA PNG should ensure that all valid pilot licences, including those issued under the CAA, show the appropriate information pursuant to the licence requirements and specifications listed under *CAR Part 61*.

### **Action requested.**

The AIC requests that CASA PNG notes recommendation *AIC 23-R16/22-1003* and provide a response to the AIC within 90 days, but no later than 17 December 2023, and explain, including with evidence, how CASA PNG has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R16/22-1003*.



**Capt. Aria Bouraga, VIBE**

*Acting Chief Commissioner*

18 September 2023

## **CASA PNG Response to Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R16/22-1003**

On 22 September 2023, during a CASA PNG - AIC meeting No.05/2023, AIC *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R16/22-1003* was discussed. CASA PNG presented their plan action of how to mitigate the safety deficiency, which included the following steps:

1. *A draft Safety Alert Bulletin (SAB) is currently in progress to highlight this matter to the industry.*
2. *A survey form will be forwarded to all operators/stakeholders to update their personnel records (Engineers/Pilots/ATC).*
3. *The Surveillance checklist to be amended.*
4. *CASA Internal Audit currently in progress to audit all file records in PEL (Exit meeting 22 Sep. 2023). This audit was prompted by CASA receiving this safety recommendation AIC 23-R16/22-1003, from AIC.*
5. *To consider in the next NPRM 2024 to limit the validity on all licenses to 5 years, subject to legal and consultation to industry/NPRM.*

On 17 November 2023, during CASA PNG - AIC meeting No. 06/2023, CASA PNG provided an approved copy of their *Safety Alert Bulletin (SAB)*, No:02/2023, with *Attachment A to the PNG SAB No. 02/2023*, dated 6 November 2023. Attachment A included *Survey Forms: PART A – Flight Crew/Pilot License Information, PART B – AME Licence Information and PART B – ATC/ASO Licence Information.*

The CASA PNG stated that their *Safety Alert Bulletin (SAB)*, No:02/2023, had been disseminated to the industry. CASA PNG also stated that they had been receiving positive response in relation the SAB, from the industry. They added that SIL Aviation, Operator of P2-SIL, had already started response to the safety bulletin.

On 4 December 2023, CASA PNG provided an email conversation with the SIL Aviation requesting them to provide licenses that were affected by this safety recommendation. The SIL Aviation replied that they would provide the licenses as soon as possible.

### **PNG AIC assessment of CASA PNG Response**

The AIC reviewed the CASA PNG's corrective action, issuance of the *SAB No: 02/2023*, to address the safety recommendation *AIC 23-R16/22-1003* notes that safety action addresses the safety deficiencies identified in the safety recommendation.

The AIC assigned this response as *satisfactory rating*.

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



**Capt. Aria Bouraga, MBE**

*Acting Chief Commissioner*

10 December 2023