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*Our Ref: AIC 23-R18/23-1002*

**Safety recommendation: AIC 23-R18/23-1002**

**Addressed to: Helifix Operations Limited**

**Date issued: 10 December 2023**

**Investigation link: AIC 23-1002**

**Action status: Issued**

**Safety deficiency description**

On 10 February 2023, at 13:43 local time, (03:43 UTC) a Cessna 208B Grand Caravan aircraft, registered P2-HFA (HFA), owned and operated by Helifix Operations Limited (Ltd), was conducting a VFR charter flight from Kiunga Airport, Western Province to Eliptamin Airstrip, Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea, when during the landing roll, the aircraft overran the strip and impacted the embankment of a drain which runs along the edge of the airstrip .

According to the Operator's Fixed Wing Operation Manual Part C, section 4.3, aerodrome inspections are divided into three (3) types:

1. Type A - Conducted annually and are a complete review of the suitability of the aerodrome.
2. Type B - Conducted every three months and are a quick review of the ongoing suitability of the aerodrome for the next 3 months.
3. Type C - Conducted prior to the landing of the aircraft on all flights.

The last Type A inspection that was conducted on Eliptamin Airstrip by the Operator was in 2020. However, there was no evidence of an inspection report.

**Recommendation number AIC 23-R18/23-1002 to Helifix Limited.**

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) recommends that Helifix Operations Limited implement its procedures outlined in the Fixed Wing Operations Manual, Part C, section 4.3, with respect to aerodrome inspections that are required to be carried out annually, every 3 months and before every landing to ensure the suitability of the aerodromes.

**Action requested.**

The AIC requests that Helifix Limited note recommendation *AIC 23-R18/23-1002* and provide a response to the AIC within 90 days of the issue date and explain (including with evidence) how Helifix Operations Limited has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the safety recommendation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AB' followed by a stylized flourish.

**Capt. A Bouraga, MBE**

*Chief Commissioner*

10 December 2023

## Helifix Operations Limited Response to Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R18/23-1002

On 26 January 2024, Helifix Operations Limited (HOL) responded via email providing their corrective action to address the *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R18/23-1002*. According to HOL, the appropriate procedures for airstrip inspection exist, however, they have not been implemented over the last few years. HOL stated that its existing procedures will be fully implemented to cover the airstrip inspection regime. According to HOL, airstrip information is currently shared amongst all general aviation operators daily to inform each other of current conditions of airstrips, however HOL does not document this shared information.

HOL advised PNG AIC of the following three methods that it will endeavour to undertake to implement its procedures on airstrip inspection, which will ultimately address *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R18/23-1002*:

- Helifix Training and Check forms – HTC form 41 Airstrip Serviceability Report Form
- Helifix Training and Check forms - HTC form 47 Airstrip Inspection Form which caters for Type A (yearly) and Type B (3 monthly) inspections and will be implemented in 2024.
- Type C Airstrip inspections are conducted and recorded on a data sheet and is being revived for the benefit of safety.

HOL provided copies of templates of the existing airstrip inspection forms they have available, and also a copy of the last inspection for Eliptamin Airstrip which was conducted and recorded in 2020. This inspection was recorded on HTC form 47, which indicates that the last time a Type A (yearly) and Type B (3 monthly) inspection was carried out on Eliptamin Airstrip was in 2020. HOL also provided a copy of its master data sheet of airstrip conditions. According to HOL, the master data sheet is a compilation of Type C inspections. Additionally, an extract of a group email among general aviation operators, including HOL, sharing information of airstrip surveillance and monitoring was provided by HOL to the AIC.

## PNG AIC assessment of Helifix Operations Limited Response

The AIC reviewed HOL's corrective action plans to address *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R18/23-1002* and notes that the corrective action plans, once fully implemented, will address the safety deficiency in the safety recommendation.

The AIC assigned this response as *satisfactory intent*.

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



**Maryanne J. Wal**

*Chief Commissioner*

8 February 2024

## Helifix Operations Limited response to Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R18/23-1002

On 11 December 2023, Helifix Operations Limited responded acknowledging the Safety Recommendation and stated that they would review and ensure the safety recommendation is completed for the benefit of safety.

The AIC made a courtesy follow-up on 9 January 2025, where the AIC also confirmed that the due date for the responses was 8 February 2024. The operator responded the following day, stating that they would work on the corrective actions.

On 26 January 2024, Helifix Operations Limited provided a proposed corrective action plan to address the safety deficiency identified in the *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R18/23-1002*, follows:

### Helifix Corrective Action Plan:

*The following methods will be undertaken to implement its procedures on airstrip inspection, which will ultimately address Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R18/23-1002.*

- *Helifix Training and Check forms-HTC form 41 Airstrip Serviceability Report Form (Report submitted before first approval of airstrip or whenever differences to route manual are detected, like changes in frequency, surface conditions, equipment etc.)*
- *Helifix Training and Check forms-HTC form 47 Airstrip Inspection Form which caters for Type A (yearly) and Type B (3monthly) inspections and will be implemented in 2024.*
- *Type C Airstrip inspections are conducted and recorded on a data sheet and is being revived for the benefit of safety.*

On 8 November 2024, Helifix Operations Ltd provided evidence of two inspections done for common airstrip flown to, which is the 3 monthly Inspection.

On 18 December 2024, Helifix Operations Limited provided evidence of two inspections recorded on Helifix Forms HTC 41 and HTC 47 for monthly and annual inspections for airstrips Sisamin and Yapsie carried out on 12 November 2024.

## PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) assessment of Helix Operations Limited response

The AIC assessed the evidence provided and is satisfied that the evidence satisfactorily addresses the safety deficiencies identified in the AIC *Safety Recommendation AIC 23-R018/23-1002*.

The AIC has assigned the Helifix Operations Limited response a **fully satisfactory** rating.

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



**Maryanne J. Wal**  
*Chief Commissioner*

28 May 2025