

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

ACCIDENT TO EUROCOPTER EC120B, EI-IZO, AT SWANSEA AIRPORT ON 7 NOVEMBER 2003

(HELICOPTER CRASHED IN THE HOVER)

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F25/2005
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 07 July 2005
OPERATOR : Cloud 9 Helicopters
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2003/07772
AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 6/2005

SYNOPSIS

(From AAIB Report)

The helicopter was stationary in the hover over the apron area at Swansea Airport when it unexpectedly yawed left and pitched nose down. The surface wind was a gusting crosswind, varying in direction, from the right and slightly behind the helicopter at 15 to 20 kt. The pilot attempted to recover but the cyclic control reached its aft limit of travel and he was unable prevent the forward fuselage and front of the right skid contacting the paved surface, followed by the main rotor blades. The helicopter rolled over and slid along the ground for some distance before coming to rest against a vehicle. All persons on board escaped uninjured.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

The two Safety Recommendations, made by the AAIB following their investigation, are reproduced below, together with the CAA's responses.

Recommendation 2005-33

It is recommended that Eurocopter highlight the circumstances of this accident to EC 120 operators, with a view to emphasising the importance of correct loading and the possible adverse effects a gusting tail wind can have on a hovering helicopter with a centre of gravity (CG) close to or on the forward CG limit.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed

Recommendation 2005-34

It is recommended that Eurocopter include information, in the EC 120 Approved Flight Manual (AFM), concerning the locus of the cyclic control and the possibility that restriction in its movement, brought about by the morphology of either of the front seat occupants, may not be apparent prior to flight, when dual controls are fitted, because a pre-flight 'full and free' control check by the pilot is not routinely performed.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed