



PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Safety recommendation: AIC 15-R18/13-1007

Addressed to: PNG Air Services Ltd

Date issued: 7 August 2015

Investigation link: AIC 13-1007

Action status: Issued

Safety deficiency description

On 19 October 2013, an Avions de Transport Régional ATR42-320 freighter, registered P2-PXY (PXY) and operated by Air Niugini, taxied to depart from runway 25 at Madang Airport. The take-off roll was normal until the pilot in command tried to rotate at V_R (which the flight crew had calculated to be 102 knots). He subsequently reported that the controls felt very heavy in pitch and he could not pull the control column back in the normal manner.

Flight data recorder (FDR) information indicated that approximately 2 sec later the PIC aborted the takeoff and selected full reverse thrust and applied full braking. It was not possible to stop the aircraft before the end of the runway and it continued over the embankment at the end of the runway and the right wing struck the perimeter fence. A post-accident fire consumed the right wing. The crew were not injured. The available fire-fighting agents, water and foam, were exhausted fighting the fire in the right wing.

The investigation found the following:

- a) The Madang Airport fire-fighting tender vehicle did not have sufficient capacity to fight a more extensive aircraft fire. The airport did not meet the ICAO Annex 14 Standard with respect to the required aerodrome category 6, for rescue and fire-fighting services.
- b) The Madang airport did not meet the ICAO Annex 14 Standard with respect to the runway end safety areas.
- c) The Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG has not notified the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) of the difference in its Civil Aviation Rules from the ICAO Annex 14 Standards with respect to aerodrome category for rescue and fire-fighting services.

Recommendation number AIC 15-R18/13-1007 to PNG Air Services Ltd

The Accident Investigation Commission recommends that the PNG Air Services Ltd review the procedures and equipment used by airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Services to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements specified in the International Civil Aviation Organization's Annex 14, Volume 1.

Action requested

The AIC requests that PNG Air Services Ltd note recommendation AIC 15-R18/13-1007 above, and provide a response to the AIC within 60 days of the issue date, and explain (including with evidence) how PNG Air Services Ltd has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the AIC investigation report AIC 13-1007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Inau'.

DAVID INAU

Chief Executive Officer