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Our Ref: AIC 15-R09/11-1008

Safety recommendation: AIC 15-R09/11-1008

Addressed to: Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG

Date issued: 30 July 2015

Investigation link: AIC 11-1008

Action status: Issued

Safety deficiency/advisory description

The Eurocopter-Canada BO 105LS A3 helicopter, registered P2-RUH, was being operated on a charter flight in support of mining operations around the Hidden Valley area of Papua New Guinea (PNG), about 90 km south west of Lae. The last transmission from the helicopter heard by Air Traffic Services, was the pilot's Bulolo departure report. Wreckage of the helicopter was subsequently located about 75 km south west of Timini. The impact of the crash was not survivable.

While not considered to be a contributing factor in this accident, the Accident Investigation Commission found that the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG (CASA) safety oversight of the operator's maintenance procedures did not detect that the operator's facilities in Rabaul and Lae were not CASA approved Part 145 facilities.

Recommendation number AIC 15-R09/11-1008 to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG.

The Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) recommends that the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG (CASA) conduct an audit of the Manalos Aviation maintenance program to ensure it meets its obligations under CASR Parts 119, 135, and 145.

Action requested

The AIC requests that Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG (CASA) note the recommendation AIC 15-R09/11-1008 above, and provide a response to the AIC within 60 days of the issue date, and explain (including with evidence) how CASA has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the AIC investigation report AIC 11-1008.

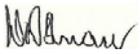
David Inau
Chief Executive Officer

Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG (CASA) response

Despite reminders being sent to the CASA, the AIC has not received an evidence-based response from CASA addressing the identified safety deficiency.

PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) assessment of Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG (CASA) response

As a result of the AIC not receiving an evidence-based response from CASA addressing the identified safety deficiency with respect to AIC 15-R09/11-1008 addressed to CASA, the AIC assigned this nil response an **unsatisfactory** rating, and records the **Status of the AIC Recommendation: Active**



David Inau, ML

Chief Executive Officer

13 October 2015

Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG (CASA) response

The AIC wrote to CASA on 24 November 2016 listing this among the recommendations to CASA that were still outstanding. On 5 December 2016, the Director of CASA PNG informed the AIC that:

CASA advises that prior to the issue of an Airworthiness Certificate, a maintenance program is issued in accordance with Part 119. No aircraft is permitted to commence operations unless its maintenance program is approved. CASA notes the recommendation and has conducted audits of Manalos Aviation maintenance program including maintenance facilities to ensure the operator fully meets its obligations under CAR Parts 119, 135, and 145. The operator is a helicopter operator and operates under CAR 135 and not 135. The operator has established a Part 145 maintenance base at Tokua (Kokopo) for the purpose of conducting maintenance and CASA has continued to maintain safety oversight over the operator under its Annual Surveillance programme.

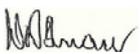
Lae is considered as a Line Station for the purpose of carrying out defects maintenance which allows the operator to continue to operate.

Copies of Audit reports are attached for your perusal. [AIC sighted the Audit Reports].

PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) assessment of Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG (CASA) response

At the time of the accident, the Operator's maintenance facilities at Rabual and Lae were not CASA approved Part 145 facilities. The documents supplied as evidence with the 5 December 2016 CASA response indicate that the operator's maintenance facility at Tokura (Kokopo) is now a CASA approved Part 145 facility.

The AIC has reviewed the CASA PNG response addressing the recommendation AIC 15-R09/11-1008 addressed to CASA. The AIC assigned this response a **satisfactory** rating, and records the **Status of the AIC Recommendation: Closed**.



David Inau, ML

Chief Executive Officer

7 December 2016