Safety Regulation Group Safety Information and Data Department



Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

ACCIDENT TO EUROPA, G-BWCV, NEAR PORTBURY, NORTH SOMERSET ON 16 JULY 2006

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F14/2007

FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 11 April 2007

OPERATOR : Private

CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2006/06227

AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 3/2007

SYNOPSIS

From AAIB Report:

Whilst cruising at 3500 ft near the Severn estuary, the aircraft suffered an alternator bearing seizure and smoke from the drive belts entered the cockpit. The engine stopped, but, due to its free-wheel mechanism, the propeller continued to rotate increasing the drag and causing a significantly higher rate of descent during the subsequent forced landing than for a propeller at idle or stopped.

The aircraft landed in a small field, struck a hedge and suffered major damage to the composite fuselage structure fore and aft of the cockpit. Both occupants suffered minor injuries.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

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

Recommendation 2007-033

It is recommended that the Popular Flying Association review the use of dual belts on NSI EA81 engines to minimise the consequences of an alternator seizure.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed

Recommendation 2007-034

It is recommended that the Popular Flying Association (PFA) advise all owners and operators of PFA Permit-to-Fly aircraft which have a free-wheeling fixed pitch propeller, that such aircraft may have a high rate of descent if the propeller free-wheels following an engine failure.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed

This publication provides the initial CAA response to each Safety Recommendation made by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch, Department of Transport. Status 'CLOSED' or 'OPEN' indicates completion or not of all actions judged appropriate by the CAA in response to the Recommendation. It is published by the Safety Investigation and Data Department, Safety Regulation Group, Civil Aviation Authority, Aviation House, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR. Tel: 01293 573220 Fax: 01293 573972 Telex: 878753.