

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

ACCIDENT TO EUROPA XS, G-IOWE, AT WOLVERHAMPTON ON 10 AUGUST 2001

(Aircraft lost power and crashed because of restriction in fuel flow transducer)

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F2/2003
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 10 February 2003
OPERATOR : Private
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2001/05549
AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 1/2003

SYNOPSIS

(From AAIB Report)

The passenger was an experienced pilot who held a flying instructor rating and had a total of 8,500 hours flying experience of which 50 hours were on type. He was acting as a safety pilot for the commander who was the owner's daughter.

According to the passenger, all the normal pre-flight ground and cockpit checks were carried out satisfactorily. After a normal engine start and taxi, the engine power checks were completed in accordance with the check list. There were no problems during the ground roll and early part of the take-off but at approximately 100 feet agl, the engine started to surge and vibrate, losing nearly all of its power. The passenger took control and as there was no suitable area ahead, a 40° turn was used to position the aircraft for a forced landing in a short, uphill cornfield. On landing in the corn, the engine stopped. The aircraft was undamaged and neither pilot was injured.

Following recovery of the aircraft, the owner stated that all the fuel lines, filters and carburettor float chambers were examined but no faults were found. A fuel flow check revealed that a restriction was present within the fuel flow transducer. The transducer had been fitted between the fuel filter and the carburettors.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

The one Safety Recommendation, made by the AAIB following their investigation, is reproduced below, together with the CAA's response.

Recommendation 2002-38

It was recommended to the Popular Flying Association that fuel flow transducers fitted to PFA 'Permit to Fly' aircraft types should either be invulnerable to blockage by small particles or have an automatic, remedial bypass mechanism that prevents fuel supply restriction.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed