

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

ACCIDENT TO SCHLEICHER KA8 GLIDER, FKJ, AT HINTON-IN-THE-HEDGES AIRFIELD ON 1 JUNE 2002

(FATAL MID AIR COLLISION BETWEEN GLIDER AND PARACHUTIST)

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F9/2003
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 12 March 2003
OPERATOR : Private
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2002/03563
AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 2/2003

SYNOPSIS

(From the AAIB Report)

During free-fall from 12,000 feet, three parachutists were practising formation descents. At a height of some 4,000 feet, the formation separated in preparation for deployment of their parachutes at 2,200 feet. Shortly after, one of the parachutists became aware of a glider about 800 feet below him. He fell past and very close to it and then pulled the release for his main canopy. As he looked up to check its deployment, he was aware of wreckage falling around him and it quickly became apparent that one of his colleagues had collided with the glider. Both the parachutist and glider pilot, who was not wearing a parachute, were killed in the accident. The skydiving centre and the gliding club, where the glider was based, had operated at the same airfield for a number of years.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

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

Recommendation 2002-54

It is recommended that the British Parachute Association include in their Operations Manual a requirement for the crew of an aircraft involved in dropping parachutists, to inform the DZ controller when each run is complete.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed