

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

ACCIDENT TO GILL SA PULSAR, G-BSFA, AT GLOUCESTER-STAVERTON AERODROME - 14 AUGUST 2002
(NOSEWHEEL DETACHED AS AIRCRAFT ROTATED)

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F15/2003
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 11 July 2003
OPERATOR : Private
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2002/05733
AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 5/2003

SYNOPSIS

(From AAIB Report)

Whilst taking off from Staverton for a local flight, the nose wheel became detached as the aircraft rotated. The event was not apparent to the aircraft occupants, who were subsequently informed by a radio message from an aircraft preparing to take off behind them. They decided to circle the airfield for 20 minutes while the emergency services were assembled, following which a low approach and go-around was made. This allowed observers on the ground to confirm that the nosewheel and fairing were missing from the aircraft. Another long approach was made, and when it was certain that a go-around was not required, the magnetos were switched off and the propeller rotated to the horizontal position before turning off the fuel and battery master switch. The latter actions were discussed whilst orbiting the airfield and were carried out by the passenger, who also held a current PPL.

After touch down, the nose was held off for as long as possible, with no wheel braking, before the nose leg settled onto the runway. It slid along for about 30 metres before digging in, bringing the aircraft to an abrupt halt. The aircraft occupants were uninjured and exited by the normal means.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

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

Recommendation 2003-06

It is recommended that the Popular Flying Association conduct a design review of the nose landing gear as fitted to Pulsar aircraft on the UK register and liaise with the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) in the USA on this matter.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed