

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

ACCIDENT TO SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS REPLICA, ES-XCL, AT COVENTRY AIRFIELD ON 31 MAY 2003
(AIRCRAFT CRASHED AFTER A MAJOR STRUCTURAL FAILURE IN RIGHT WING)

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F10/2004
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 12 February 2004
OPERATOR : Private
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2003/03282
AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 1/2004

SYNOPSIS

(From AAIB Report)

Shortly after takeoff from Runway 23, whilst climbing and manoeuvring gently to begin its display sequence, the aircraft's right wing suffered a major structural failure and the aircraft fell steeply into an industrial compound bordering the airfield. There was no post impact fire. The pilot survived the impact, but died shortly afterwards from his injuries. The failure in fatigue of a combined right landing gear and wing strut support fitting was determined to have precipitated the wing failure.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

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

Recommendation 2003-115

The Civil Aviation Administration of Estonia should review their regulatory function, which underpins the airworthiness oversight of aircraft such as the 'Spirit of St Louis' replica that are issued with a Limited Certificate of Airworthiness in the Experimental category, so as to be assured that such aircraft are maintained to an internationally agreed standard, especially if such aircraft are based in a different State.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed

Recommendation 2003-116

The CAA, in conjunction with the Department for Transport, should review the process by which foreign registered replica homebuilt aircraft are granted Exemptions to Article 8(1) of the Air Navigation Order, which permits such aircraft to fly within UK airspace and at public air displays, without an appropriate Certificate of Airworthiness. Such

a review should consider the possibility of requesting specific assurance from the State of Registry that such aircraft are maintained, and records have been kept, in accordance with the requirements of that State.

CAA Response

The CAA accepts this Recommendation.

The CAA, in conjunction with the Department for Transport, will review the process by which foreign registered replica homebuilt aircraft are granted Exemptions to Article 8(1) of the Air Navigation Order, which permits such aircraft to fly within UK airspace and at public air displays, without an appropriate Certificate of Airworthiness. The review will consider the possibility of requesting specific assurance from the State of Registry that such aircraft are maintained, and records have been kept, in accordance with the requirements of that State. It is planned to complete this review by end-December 2004.

CAA Status - Open