

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

ACCIDENT TO BELL 206L LONGRANGER, G-IANG, NEAR PATHHEAD, MIDLOTHIAN ON 30 APRIL 2003
(HELICOPTER FORCE LANDED AFTER CABLE STRIKE)

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F19/2004
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 15 April 2004
OPERATOR : Lothian Helicopters
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2003/02567
AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 3/2004

SYNOPSIS

(From AAIB Report)

Towards the end of a flight, the pilot had transited through Edinburgh Airport Zone in preparation for a landing at his home site of Oxenfoord Castle, north of Pathhead. When to the east of Edinburgh, he deviated to the south to avoid some low cloud but, as he started heading east towards his intended landing area, the pilot encountered further low cloud at the beginning of a valley. He descended to remain in sight of the ground and almost immediately saw pylon cables directly ahead of the helicopter. He initiated a climb but the rear of the helicopter struck a cable and the tail rotor/fin assembly detached. G-IANG force landed heavily on the upslope of a grass field. The helicopter was extensively damaged but the three occupants escaped with minor injuries. The pilot's shoulder harness failed during the forced landing.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

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

Recommendation 2004-12

The CAA should re-emphasise to the aeronautical community in general, and licensed engineers in particular, the importance of ensuring that any occupant restraint systems already fitted, or to be replaced, on an aircraft or helicopter, comply with the relevant airworthiness requirements.

CAA Response

The CAA fully accepts this Recommendation.

The CAA will re-emphasise to the aviation industry, including licensed aircraft engineers, the importance of ensuring that any occupant restraint system already fitted, or to be replaced, on an aircraft or helicopter, complies with the relevant airworthiness requirements. A Flight Operations Department Communication (FODCOM) and a GASIL article will be published in June 2004.

CAA Status - Open