

## Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

*ACCIDENT TO PARAMANIA REVOLUTION 23, AT MIDDLE BARN FARM BEXHILL ON 8 JULY 2007*

**CAA FACTOR NUMBER** : F2/2009  
**FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE** : 09 April 2009  
**OPERATOR** : Private  
**CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER** : 2007/06288  
**AAIB REPORT** : 2/2009

### SYNOPSIS

From AAIB Report:

The paramotor was being operated by an experienced pilot who was also an instructor. He was seen to initiate what was described as a 'wingover' manoeuvre to the right, at about 1,000ft, but this was seen to develop into a rapid spiral to the left which continued for several turns, with a high rate of descent. The aircraft started to recover at a late stage but the pilot received fatal injuries in the impact with the ground.

There was no defect identified within the wing (canopy and rigging) but structural failures were identified within the paramotor unit, consistent with having occurred in flight and precipitating the spiral descent.

### FOLLOW UP ACTION

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

#### Recommendation 2008-052

It is recommended that the Civil Aviation Authority should actively develop oversight of the sport of self-propelled hang gliders, including paramotors, by a single organisation.

#### CAA Response

The CAA does not accept this Recommendation as it does not regulate this activity.

However, the CAA has, over many years, regularly reviewed 'sporting aviation' issues with the UK's General Aviation sector, and the current consensus is that additional certification, registration, maintenance and licensing of such activities would not provide safety benefits significant enough to outweigh the cost of such extra regulation.

In relation to the sport of 'paramotoring' the CAA maintains the view that additional CAA oversight would not bring significant safety benefits to the sport. Nevertheless the CAA has noted the comments leading to this Recommendation and shares the concerns of the AAIB concerning the fragmented nature of current guidance in relation to 'paramotoring'. As a consequence, the CAA will write to the principals of both organisations involved in the oversight of the sport of 'paramotoring', the British Microlight Aircraft Association and the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, and will reinforce the concerns and propose that these organisations develop appropriate guidance.

**CAA Status - Closed**