

DATE
march 29, 2007

YOUR REFERENCE

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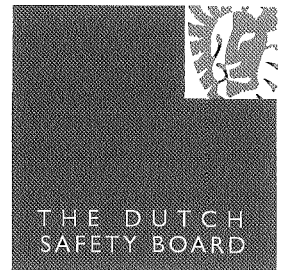
CONTACT
K.E. Beumkes

OUR REFERENCE
OVV 07500728

ENCLOSURE(S)
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TELEPHONE
+31 70 3337016

PROJECT NUMBER
2006137 G-JSAR



European Aviation Safety Agency
Postfach 101253
D-50452 KÖLN
Duitsland

SUBJECT
Bristow helicopter emergency landing investigation

Dear Sir,

This letter is to inform you about the ongoing investigation of the Eurocopter Super Puma L2 helicopter emergency landing in the North Sea on 21 November 2006 in The Netherlands. The investigation revealed findings of which the Dutch Safety Board deems it necessary to share them with you, prior to the publication of the final report. The Safety Board also will publish a report concerning this information on its website.

Investigation of the safety equipment of the Eurocopter Super Puma L2 (AS 332L2), registered as G-JSAR, revealed that the life raft stowed in the left-hand sponson could not be deployed by means of the normal activating mechanisms. Deficiencies were found in the design and the prescribed maintenance procedures of the activating mechanism.

Safety measures

During the test representatives of Eurocopter (helicopter manufacturer), Bristow (operator) and the Safety Board were present. The Board informed Eurocopter, Bristow, the French BEA, the AAIB UK and the Dutch CAA about the findings.

Eurocopter announced the issue of a Service Bulletin for improvement and stated that the AS 332L2 is the only type that is equipped with this life raft activating mechanism. The Safety Board did not extend its investigation to other helicopter types. This Service Bulletin has not yet been published.

ADDRESS

Anna van Saksenlaan 50 2593 HT The Hague The Netherlands
TELEPHONE +31 70 333 70 00 TELEFAX +31 70 333 70 77
INTERNET www.safetyboard.nl

P.O. BOX

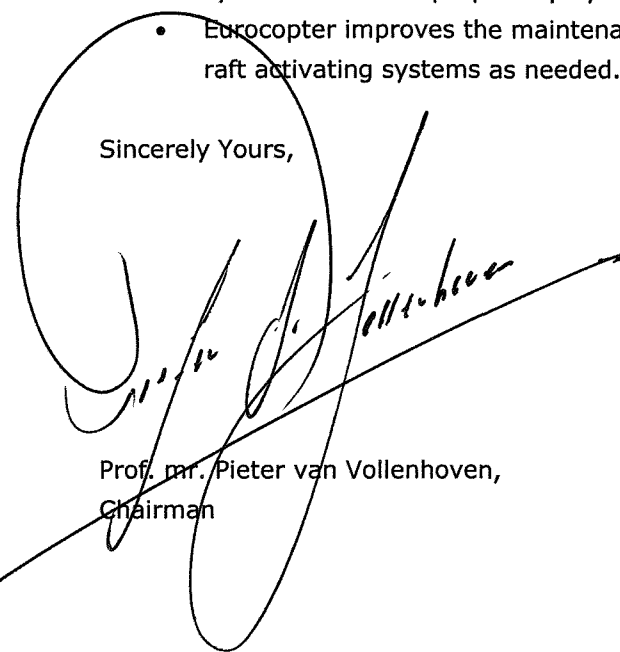
P.O. Box 95404 2509 CK The Hague The Netherlands



Based on these findings the Dutch Safety Board asks the certifying authority for the Eurocopter products, the European Aviation Safety Agency, to take the following actions in order that:

- Operators check the proper functioning of the life raft activating mechanism on AS 332L2 Eurocopter helicopters equipped with sponson mounted life rafts within two months after publication of this message.
- Eurocopter improves the design of the sponson mounted life raft activating systems to assure proper deployment.
- Eurocopter improves the maintenance procedures of the sponson mounted life raft activating systems as needed.

Sincerely Yours,



Prof. mr. Pieter van Vollenhoven,
Chairman

- a copy of this letter has been sent to the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management and The Netherlands CAA, Eurocopter, Bristow Helicopters Ltd., BEA France, DGAC France, CAA UK, AAIB UK, State Supervision of Mines of The Netherlands, NOGEP, OGP, AIB Danmark, FAIB Finland, AIB Norway, AIB Sweden, NTSB, FAA, TSB Canada, ATSB, TAIC New Zealand, ASC Taiwan, IAC Russia, ARAIC Japan and NTSC Indonesia.