



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: May 13, 2014

In reply refer to: A-14-024 through -027

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Washington, DC 20591

On May 7, 2014, the NTSB adopted its report concerning the special investigation of 78 accidents that occurred during calendar year 2013 involving some aspect of agricultural operations, pilot training, or other crop protection activities.¹ Additional information about the special investigation and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number SIR-14/01.

As a result of this special investigation, the NTSB issued eight new recommendations, including four to the National Agricultural Aviation Research & Education Foundation, and the following four recommendations to the FAA:

A-14-024

In conjunction with the National Agricultural Aviation Research & Education Foundation, develop and distribute agricultural aircraft operations-specific guidance on fatigue, fatigue management strategies, and scheduling practices to help reduce the likelihood of fatigue, dehydration, hunger, and other physiological factors that can negatively affect a pilot's concentration, decision-making, and performance.

A-14-025

In conjunction with the National Agricultural Aviation Research & Education Foundation, develop and distribute agricultural aircraft operations-specific guidance on risk assessment and mitigation strategies that includes but is not limited to information and checklists for performing preflight and in-flight site

¹ *Special Investigation Report on the Safety of Agricultural Aircraft Operations*, Special Investigation Report NTSB/SIR-14/01 (Washington, DC: NTSB, 2014).

surveys, with special emphasis on attention management and obstacle collision avoidance strategies; information on the effects of density altitude, crosswinds, and aircraft weight and balance on aircraft performance during takeoff, landing, and while maneuvering; fuel management; and aerodynamic stall awareness and avoidance.

A-14-026

In conjunction with the National Agricultural Aviation Research & Education Foundation, develop and distribute guidance for agricultural aircraft operators to assist them in implementing effective aircraft inspection and maintenance quality assurance programs, including but not limited to best practices for performing, recording, and tracking mandatory and recommended maintenance items for each aircraft.

A-14-027

In conjunction with the National Agricultural Aviation Research & Education Foundation, develop and distribute guidance that covers the 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 137 knowledge test subject areas and skills test items, including but not limited to comprehensive discussions of the knowledge test subject areas and illustrated descriptions of the safe and successful execution of the skills test maneuvers, with special emphasis on aerodynamic stall onset awareness and prevention.

Acting Chairman HART and Members SUMWALT, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement them. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,
Acting Chairman