



Safety recommendation no. 493

Date of the publication	15.12.2014
Number of the final report	2224
Safety deficit	<p>On 15 September 2012 a hot-air balloon took off close to Ranflüh/BE and then attempted to fly over a layer of cloud, the base of which was approximately 1900 to 2000 m AMSL. Unnoticed by the pilot, the balloon penetrated Bern-Belp regional aerodrome's terminal area. Shortly afterwards there was a near-collision involving the balloon and a Cessna R182 aircraft which was on a training flight under instrument flight rules from Berne Belp regional aerodrome.</p> <p>The investigation indicated that at least for some balloon pilots a deficit exists in terms of accurate knowledge of the procedure for flying through fog and correspondingly correct application. It also became clear that no form of training is necessary for application of the procedure for flying through fog by balloon.</p>
Safety recommendation	The Federal Office of Civil Aviation, together with the Swiss Balloon Federation, should ensure that balloon pilots are adequately trained in the application of the procedure for flying through fog.
Addressees	BAZL Bundesamt für Zivilluftfahrt
Investigation report concerning the safety recommendation	<u>Schlussbericht</u>