



Safety recommendation no. 509

Date of the publication	19.12.2016
Number of the final report	2288
Safety deficit	<p>On 20th July 2015, an airprox occurred south-west of Samedan Airport in the area of reporting point HN between an approaching helicopter and a departing touring motor glider. The helicopter was using a special approach procedure that was only documented in an internal paper of the airport operator and was only permitted for helicopter companies based at Samedan Airport. These procedures lead via reporting point HN, which is within the airport's traffic pattern. When approaching and taking off via this reporting point, the traffic pattern must therefore always be crossed. In addition, the runway axis is also usually crossed twice. Approaches along these routes also require a steep descent due to the topographic conditions with the result that the traffic pattern is also crossed vertically at a steep angle. One of the approaches also runs parallel to the slope of Piz Padella where many gliders fly in the summer months, which is also indicated in the visual approach chart.</p> <p>The serious incident showed that these special approach and take-off procedures carry inherent risks. In addition, the special procedures and, in particular, reporting point HN were not published. This also posed a risk because not all airspace users were informed about the procedures applied. Furthermore, using non-published reporting points on the radio is confusing for outsiders and creates uncertainty.</p>
Safety recommendation	Together with the airport operator and the local helicopter companies, the Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) should check the special approach and take-off procedures for helicopters at Samedan Airport.
Addressees	BAZL Bundesamt für Zivilluftfahrt
Stage of the implementation	Partially implemented. FOCA supports the safety recommendation. An application for the publication of the HN route for helicopters in Samedan has already been submitted to FOCA and is currently being assessed in the Framework Briefing group.
Investigation report concerning the safety recommendation	<u>Schlussbericht</u>