



Safety recommendation no. 543

Date of the publication	03.01.2019
Number of the final report	2343
Safety deficit	<p>On 24 October 2016, a close encounter occurred within the control zone northwest of St. Gallen-Altenrhein Airport (LSZR) between a motorised aircraft flying under visual flight rules and a business jet departing under instrument flight rules.</p> <p>The fact that the Tower Air Situation Display (TASD) at certain regional airports only displays the Short Term Conflict Alert (STCA) visually was recognised as a contributing factor to the serious incident. As the aerodrome traffic controllers mostly monitor the traffic situation by looking outwards, such warnings can easily be overlooked. An acoustic warning would make conflicts more reliable and timely recognisable.</p>
Safety recommendation	<p>The Federal Office of Civil Aviation, together with the Air Navigation Service Provider Skyguide, should take the necessary measures to increase the situational awareness of air traffic controllers at regional airports by means of an acoustic warning in addition to the visual display of an STCA warning.</p>
Addressees	BAZL Bundesamt für Zivilluftfahrt; BAZL Bundesamt für Zivilluftfahrt; BAZL Bundesamt für Zivilluftfahrt
Stage of the implementation	<p>Not implemented – In a letter dated 9 October 2020, the FOCA wrote that it should be carefully examined whether the present recommendation would not minimise one risk and at the same time increase another risk (a sometimes strong distraction of the air traffic controller). Tasked by the FOCA with examining whether the high number of STCA alerts within and directly around the control zone of all regional aerodromes could be limited in line with the safety recommendation, skyguide came to the conclusion that the technical feasibility of filtering STCA alerts at regional aerodromes was not expedient. The FOCA shared this opinion and, in return, welcomed skyguide's proposal to treat the findings of the serious incident as a case study in the refresher training course of 19 August 2020 for all air traffic controllers at civil regional aerodromes and to raise awareness of this issue.</p>
Investigation report concerning the safety recommendation	<p>Vorbericht Schlussbericht Notification</p>