



Safety recommendation no. 545

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Safety deficit	During a training flight for a formation flying demonstration, two aircraft collided as the formation separated. This was due to a misunderstanding regarding the allocation of tasks for collision avoidance. The investigation identified that insufficient training with regard to the allocation of tasks was a contributing factor in the incident.
Safety recommendation	The Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) should take appropriate measures to ensure that pilots who are granted special authorization to fly below the minimum flight altitude and are authorized to participate in a formation flying demonstration receive sufficient training for the relevant position in the formation and, in particular, are familiar with the tasks associated with that position.
Addressees	BAZL Bundesamt für Zivilluftfahrt
Stage of the implementation	In a letter dated 9 September 2019, the FOCA announced that shortly after the accident the FMA Flyers Display Course Management had announced and immediately introduced an adjustment to the training courses. Contrary to the original practice of using all pilots in different positions as well as in formation flights with aircraft with very different performance and speed ranges, new fixed teams with set positions were designated and formation flights with widely differing aircraft were completely dispensed with. FOCA inspections in 2017, 2018 and 2019 confirmed the implementation of and compliance with the newly defined procedure. The FOCA has not addressed the actual safety recommendation, namely to improve the training of pilots, in particular with regard to their position in the formation and the tasks associated therewith. There is thus still a safety deficit to some degree, so that the STSB considers the safety recommendation to have been only partially implemented.
Investigation report concerning the safety recommendation	<u>Schlussbericht</u> <u>Vorbericht</u>