



Safety recommendation no. 576

Date of the publication	19.10.2021
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Safety deficit	<p>Taxiway D is located at airport Buochs (LSZC), and runs from the airport to the Pilatus Aircraft Ltd site. This taxiway crosses the cantonal road between Ennetbürgen and Stans. The crossing is indicated with danger signs and a signal installation involving lights and warning signals. However, there are no traffic barriers. Nor are there any additional speed restrictions on the cantonal road near the crossing, meaning that vehicles may travel at up to 80km/hr.</p> <p>On 5 March 2021 the driver of a passenger car failed to see the red traffic light at the crossing, and subsequently collided with a Pilatus PC-12. Little damage was caused; however, a collision of this kind could potentially result in considerable damage to the aircraft and car involved, and in serious injury to the persons or third parties involved, for example owing to the high rotation energy of the aircraft's propeller.</p> <p>All other crossings on the aerodrome for which air traffic control is responsible have traffic barriers, apart from the crossings between the cantonal road and Taxiways D and C – the latter lying further east.</p>
Safety recommendation	<p>The Canton of Nidwalden's Office for Mobility, in collaboration with the cantonal police department, the Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA), Pilatus Aircraft Ltd and the operators of Buochs airport (LSZC) should implement measures to reduce the risk of a collision between users of the cantonal road and aircraft at the crossings on taxiways C and D.</p>
Addressees	<p>Amt für Mobilität des Kantons Nidwalden; Amt für Mobilität des Kantons Nidwalden</p>
Stage of the implementation	<p>Partially implemented.</p> <p>The Office for Mobility (AMO) of the Canton of Nidwalden informed the STSB in a letter dated 24 January 2022 that, as immediate measures to defuse the hazardous situation, it planned to optimise the control sequence of the on-demand traffic lights, adjust the signalling along the cantonal road appropriately and, if necessary, reduce the speed limit at the crossing point. The intention is to increase the attention of drivers and improve the acceptance of the measures. The situation will be monitored to ensure that aircraft are passing over the cantonal road in a safe manner. If the new measures are not adequately observed, the AMO intends to erect road barriers. The planned measures will now be discussed with the parties involved. If they agree to the procedure, it aims to implement the measures before the end of 2022.</p>

In a further letter dated 30 May 2022, the Office for Mobility (AMO) of the Canton of Nidwalden stated that a traffic engineering analysis submitted in March 2022 confirmed that measures to optimise the signalling at the two junctions were necessary, irrespective of the accident in spring 2021. It was agreed that, once an aircraft is announced, changeover signals would reduce the speed for vehicles on the cantonal road at the intersection of the cantonal road with taxiway C and taxiway D to 60kph and that a warning sign would indicate that a vehicle-triggered traffic light system is in operation (RSO signal 1.27 light signals). Moves have already been made to implement these measures; the extent to which they are effective and accepted will subsequently be monitored.

**Investigation report concerning
the safety recommendation**

Schlussbericht
Vorbericht
