



J10/2/7117 A99-126

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	12/11/1999	Time of Accident	1520Z	
Aircraft Registration	ZS-DID	Type of Aircraft	Piper PA 22-150	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Student Pilot		Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	46.7	Total Hours on Type	10.7
Type of Operation	Training (Solo Cross Country Flight)			
Last point of departure	Grahamstown			
Next point of intended landing	Grahamstown			

Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)

Orchards District – Albany approximately 10nm northeast of Grahamstown.

Meteorological Information

Number of people on board	One	No. of people injured	None	No. of people killed	None
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Synopsis

The student pilot departed from Grahamstown on a solo cross-country flight. After being airborne for approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes he experienced a vibration on the control column.

He was able to observe the control surface from the cockpit. He noted that the starboard stabilizer / elevator control surface was fluttering. He continued with the flight with the vibration level increasing, after approximately 10 minutes he decided to execute a forced landing.

The pilot landed in an area densely vegetated with substantial damage being caused to the aircraft. The pilot was not injured during the forced landing.

Probable Cause

The failure of the elevator control surface could be attributed to an overload failure. Electron microscope tests of the failed control surface indicated that the control surface must have struck or impacted an object that caused it to fail.