



A99-135-7126

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	22 November 1999	Time of Accident	10:33 Z		
Aircraft Registration	ZS-MMZ	Type of Aircraft	Pitts Special S-2B		
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Airline Transport		Licence Valid	Yes	
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	4734	Total Hours on Type	271.7	
Type of Operation	Private				
Last point of departure	FAGM (Rand Airport)				
Next point of intended landing	FAGM (Rand Airport)				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)					
Approximately 11 nm South South West of Rand Airport near Kliprivier. S 26°25,060, E 028°03,790.					
Meteorological Information	CAVOK				
Number of people on board	1+1	No. of people injured	Nil	No. of people killed	1+1
Synopsis	<p>On 22 November 1999, the pilot (a member of the Smirnoff aerobatic display team) was accompanied by a passenger (a British Airways pilot), on a private flight South of Johannesburg.</p> <p>They departed Rand airport at 09:47 Z. At approximately 10:00 Z, the aircraft was spotted by a farm labourer in the Kliprivier district approximately 11 nm South South West from Rand airport. According to the witness, who was attending to the cattle on the farm and was positioned 500m South South West from where the accident occurred, the aircraft was executing aerobatic manoeuvres prior to the accident.</p> <p>The manoeuvres described by the witness were vertical climbs followed by a number of vertical rolls. At the top of the climb the aircraft executed a manoeuvre that can best be described as a stall turn before starting to descend rapidly. While descending, the witness noticed that the aircraft was banking slightly alternately towards the left and right. The aircraft failed to recover from the high rate of descent and collided with the ground in a wings level attitude.</p> <p>After initial impact, the aircraft slid for 32 m before coming to rest. Both occupants sustained fatal injuries and the aircraft was extensively damaged. Although the aircraft's main fuel tank ruptured on impact there was no fire.</p>				
Probable Cause					
The pilot was executing low level aerobatics and failed to maintain sufficient height for a safe recovery. The density altitude and the weight of the aircraft would have had an adverse effect on aircraft and engine performance.					