

**SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY****ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Aircraft Registration	ZS-RFO	Date of Accident	3 October 2001	Time of Accident	1545Z
Type of Aircraft	ROBINSON R22 BETA		Type of Operation	Ferry	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Commercial	Age	46	Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	1200	Hours on Type	137	
Last point of departure	Farm in Groblersdal District				
Next point of intended landing	Another farm, also in Groblersdal District				

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

30km South-West of Groblersdal

Meteorological Information	Fine				
Number of people on board	1+1	No. of people injured	0	No. of people killed	0

Synopsis

On 3 October 2001, at approximately 1545Z, the pilot ferried the helicopter from one farm to another in the Groblersdal district.

While in straight and level flight he experienced a violent loss of control, followed by a sudden steep turn to the left and random changes in attitude.

The pilot identified a cyclic failure and by side-slip and rudder control managed to direct the helicopter to a field where he managed to fly the helicopter into the ground.

The front of the skids dug in and broke off after the aircraft skidded for 10m along the ground.

When the skids dug-in the sudden stoppage caused the main rotor to sever the tail-boom.

The pilot was the holder of a valid commercial licence and medical certificate with no restrictions.

According to available information the aircraft was correctly maintained.

Fine weather conditions prevailed at the time of the accident.

The helicopter's cyclic control system failed, but the pilot managed to do CFIT and both occupants escaped unharmed.

The construction of some of the trailers used to transport these machines from one place to another, is suspect and needs to be addressed.

The end of the left-to-right cyclic control rod flared and pulled out, resulting in a loss of cyclic control.

The inspection procedures during an MPI do not provide for detailed inspection of cyclic- and collective control rods.

Probable Cause

Helicopter Flight Control System Failure