

State Commission on Aircraft Accidents Investigation ACCIDENT 2022/1300 RESOLUTION of 25 August 2022

Type and model of aircraft:	R44 II Helicopter
Registration marks:	SP-INW
Date of occurrence:	27 March 2022
Place of occurrence:	EPPL

After reviewing the investigation final report provided by the aircraft user, pursuant to Article 135 of The Act of 3rd July 2002 – Aviation Law (as amended) and § 18 of the Regulation of Minister of Transport of 18 January 2007 on air accidents and incidents, State Commission on Aircraft Accidents Investigation determined that:

1. The course of the accident was as follows:

On 27 March 2022, at EPPL, an instructor planned training flights for the PPL(H). After arriving at the aerodrome, the student-pilot under the supervision of the instructor performed a pre-flight inspection.

The start-up of the helicopter engine was uneventful. Under the supervision of the instructor, the student performed a check flight along the aerodrome traffic circuit, to which the instructor had no comments. Around 7:45 hrs LMT, the instructor left the helicopter and, after establishing radio communication, permitted the student to take off for a solo flight along the aerodrome traffic circuit, which was acknowledged by the student. During an attempt to take-off (hover), the helicopter began to roll to the right side while turning left around its vertical axis. At the beginning the rear part of the helicopter right skid was in contact with the ground.

A moment later the main rotor blades hit the ground, and the helicopter dynamically turned over on its right side. The student fell out of the helicopter and walked away unaided to a safe distance, without sustaining any injuries. Shortly after a fire occurred, as a result of which the helicopter was destroyed.

The rescue services arrived at the site and extinguished the fire. The student was examined by a doctor from the HEMS team based on the aerodrome. The doctor did not find any injuries. The student was not under the influence of alcohol.

The helicopter was insured and had the proper documentation in accordance with applicable regulations.

After the inspection of the accident site, the helicopter wreckage was transported to its home base.



Fig. CCTV images showing the course of the accident [source: Aeroklub Ziemi Mazowieckiej in Płock, PKBWL]

2. Cause of the occurrence:

Delayed reaction of the student in response to helicopter roll to the right side with a simultaneous abrupt movement of the collective upward.

3. Contributing factors:

Not identified

4. The Commission accepted the following preventive measures implemented by the aircraft operator:

Training on errors during helicopter take-off and related corrective actions was conducted with personnel involved operator.

5. In addition, the Commission has proposed the following safety recommendations:

Not formulated.

Investigator in charge

SCAAI Chairman

Signatures on original only