



N/A

J10/2/6936

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	24 August 1998	Time of Accident	1646		
Aircraft Registration	ZS-NKK	Type of Aircraft	Douglas DC3 / C-47 / 65 ARTP		
Name of Owner		Name and Number of Operator			
Pilot-in-command License No.	TA	Age	43	License Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours		11 691.0 22 /01/98	Hours on Type	Unknown
Last point of departure	Wonderboom Airport				
Next point of intended landing	Durban International Airport				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)					
Wonderboom Airport (S25°39.0 E028°13.0)					
Meteorological Information	Fine weather conditions prevailed at the time of the accident with the wind at 190/07 kt.				
Number of people on board	2 + 0	No. of people injured	0 + 1	No. of people killed	1 + 0
Synopsis	<p>Final power assurance checks were carried out on the aircraft's engines on the morning of the accident. The AME (Aircraft Maintenance Engineer) trimmed the elevator-trim tab to the Full Nose UP position in order to reduce the stick forces required to hold the tail down during the engine power checks, but he did not set the elevator trim back to the neutral position on completion of the checks.</p> <p>The AME was requested by the pilot(s) to remove the aileron and elevator external gust locks and the landing gear down lock pins. He left the rudder lock in place, which was later removed by one of the pilots.</p> <p>The pilot(s) did not carry out a pre-flight inspection.</p> <p>At approximately 1646 on 24 August 1998 the DC3TP, registration number ZS-NKK, crashed during take-off from runway 11 at Wonderboom Airport.</p> <p>The PIC (Pilot-in-Command), who did not wear a shoulder harness, sustained fatal injuries and the co-pilot, who did wear a shoulder harness, serious injuries.</p> <p>The accident occurred on the first flight after the aircraft had undergone a maintenance inspection, which included power assurance checks of the engines.</p> <p>The co-pilot sat in the left-hand seat and while he started the engines, the PIC attended to the cockpit checklist.</p>				
Probable Cause					
<p>It would appear that the accident was as a result of the PIC taking-off with the elevator trim set to the full nose-up position. This resulted in the nose of the aircraft pitching up after rotation, causing the pilot to lose control of the aircraft.</p>					