



J10/2/7070

A99-079

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

Date of Accident	22 April 1999	Time of Accident	1545 UTC	
Aircraft Registration	ZS-IJE	Type of Aircraft	Boeing B727-23	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Airline Transport Pilot's License		Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	6100	Total Hours on Type	1600
Type of Operation	Scheduled International Flight			
Last point of departure	FVHA (Harare)			
Next point of intended landing	FAJS (Johannesburg Int' Airport)			

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

Johannesburg Int' airport

Meteorological Information	IFR in cloud with the Temperature -30 degrees C				
Number of people on board	1/2/4/1 plus 58	No. of people injured	Nil	No. of people killed	Nil
Synopsis					

The aircraft was on a Scheduled International Flight from Harare en route to Johannesburg International Airport, cruising at FL 350 when the aircraft was cleared inbound to HBV for landing on Runway 03 at Johannesburg International Airport. The aircraft then started to descend approximately 90nm from JSV when the radar indicated two small cells in the vicinity of HBV. The pilot reduced the IAS to 250 knots and manoeuvred the aircraft to the east of track to avoid these cells when he experienced light turbulence as the aircraft passed abeam the cells. Approximately 10 nm after passing the cells, the pilot experienced a severe updraft with the aircraft climbing between 1500 to 2000 feet/min at FL 200 an IAS of 230 knots. During the updraft however, the pilot encountered severe turbulence followed by very large hailstones for approximately 30 seconds. The aircraft then flew into VMC conditions after approximately 1 (one) minute. According to the pilot, the Radar showed no returns to indicate any hail. The aircraft landed safely at Johannesburg International Airport without any further incident. No injuries were sustained to the crew or passengers. The aircraft was damaged beyond economical repair due to hail damage.

Probable Cause

Aircraft encountered severe turbulence and was subjected to severe hail damage during descent for landing at FAJS.