

**Schleicher ASW 20 L,  
G-CFRW**

**Near Pulborough,  
West Sussex**

**24 September 2022**

**Accident**

### **Investigation Synopsis**

Shortly after an aerotow takeoff and during a noise abatement turn to the left, the glider released the tow at approximately 300 ft agl. The glider then pitched down rapidly and struck the ground in a nose low attitude at high speed. The pilot was ejected from the aircraft during the accident sequence and was found approximately 26 m from the aircraft. He sustained fatal injuries.

An on-site inspection of the aircraft revealed that the elevator was not connected to the elevator control rod. Two Safety Recommendations have been made; the first to mandate Positive Control Checks and the second to amend the Flight and Operations Manual to include relevant information on the limitations of pitch control using flaps.

### **Safety Recommendation 2023-026**

#### **Justification**

An independent Positive Control Check is an effective barrier against mis-rigging and this is not a formal requirement for BGA members. Therefore to increase the likelihood of Positive Control Checks being conducted before flight the following Safety Recommendation is made:

#### **Safety Recommendation 2023-026**

It is recommended that the British Gliding Association should mandate the conduct and documenting of Positive Control Checks as part of glider Daily Inspections.

**Date Safety Recommendation made:** 24 August 2023

#### **LATEST RESPONSE**

**Response received:** 20 September 2023

The BGA accepts the recommendation that will be the subject of a proposed amendment to a BGA Operational Regulation that will be subject to approval at a General Meeting as required by the BGA Articles of Association. The next General Meeting will take place in February 2024.

Meanwhile, BGA publications will describe positive control checks as essential.

Several associated developments are underway including relating to pilot training.

We look forward to your response as required by Art 18 of Regulation (EU) No 996/2010.

**Safety Recommendation Status** Open

**AAIB Assessment** Adequate

**Action Status****Planned Action Ongoing Update Due 29 March 2024****Feedback rationale**

The AAIB welcomes the action taken and looks forward to an update after the BGA's next General Meeting.

**RESPONSE HISTORY**

N/A

## **Safety Recommendation 2023-027**

### **Justification**

In order to address the lack of clarity in the FOM regarding the level of pitch control available for a range of elevator control circuit failure scenarios, the following Safety Recommendation is made:

### **Safety Recommendation 2023-027**

It is recommended that Alexander Schleicher GmbH amend the Jammed Elevator Control Circuit section of the ASW 20 Flight and Operations Manual to include relevant information on the limitations of pitch control using flaps and its likelihood of allowing a safe landing.

**Date Safety Recommendation made:** 24 August 2023

### **LATEST RESPONSE**

**Response received:** Awaiting Response

**Safety Recommendation Status** Open

### **RESPONSE HISTORY**

N/A