

INTERIM STATEMENT INCIDENT

Incident and Incident Investigations Division

Incident
- Interim Statement -
AIID Ref No: CA18/3/2/1395



Figure 1: The file picture of the ZS-ZWB aircraft. (Source: www.flightzone.co.za)

Description:

On Monday morning, 7 March 2022, a Boeing 737-800 aircraft with registration ZS-ZWB took off on a scheduled flight from Lanseria International Airport (FALA) in Gauteng province to Cape Town International Airport (FACT) in the Western Cape province. Two pilots, four cabin crew members and 135 passengers were on-board the aircraft. During the climb phase past flight level (FL) 210, the crew heard a loud bang that originated from the No.1 engine, and they deduced that the No.1 engine had failed. The crew followed the emergency checklist procedures as they diverted to O.R. Tambo International Airport (FAOR) where an uneventful single-engine landing was carried out. All occupants on-board the aircraft were not injured during this serious incident. The aircraft's left leading edge horizontal stabiliser and the engine were substantially damaged.

NOTE

All times given in this report are Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC) and will be denoted by (Z). South African Standard Time is UTC plus 2 hours.

Purpose of the Investigation:

*In terms of Regulation 12.03.1 of the Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) 2011 this report was compiled in the interest of the promotion of aviation safety and the reduction of the risk of aviation accidents or incidents and **not to apportion blame or liability.***

The interim statement gives a brief account of the investigation progress and should be read in conjunction with the preliminary report with reference number CA18/3/2/1395 that was published on 30 March 2022.

This interim statement is released in accordance with Standard 6.6 of ICAO *Annex 13 and* CAR Part 12.05.1(7). Later, the final report may contain altered information in case new evidence is uncovered during the on-going investigation.

Any person who has information concerning this accident should contact the Accident and Incident Investigations Division (AIID) at AIIDinbox@caa.co.za

Investigations process:

The occurrence was categorised as a serious incident and the Accident and Incident Investigations Division (AIID) has assigned a serious incident Investigation File Number CA18/3/2/1395 to this investigation.

The AIID appointed the investigating team led by the investigator-in-charge (IIC). The investigators have co-ordinated with all authorities by initiating the serious incident investigation process according to CAR Part 12 and investigation procedures. The AIID is leading the investigation and will issue a final report.

The AIID Reports are made publicly available at:

<https://www.caa.co.za/industry-information/accidents-and-incidents/>

Disclaimer:

This interim statement is produced without prejudice to the rights of the CAA, which are reserved.

Interim Statement

On Monday morning, 7 March 2022, a Boeing 737-800 aircraft with registration ZS-ZWB was on a scheduled flight from Lanseria International Airport (FALA) in Gauteng province to Cape Town International Airport (FACT) in the Western Cape province. At approximately 0412Z whilst the aircraft was climbing past flight level (FL) 210, the crew heard a loud bang that originated from the No.1 engine. After careful consideration, they decided to divert to O.R. Tambo International Airport. After landing safely, it was found that the aircraft had sustained substantial damage to the left leading edge horizontal stabiliser and the No. 1 engine. All occupants on-board the aircraft were not injured during this serious incident.

Since the release of the preliminary report on 30 March 2021, the investigating team is still in the process of determining and analysing the factors that could have contributed to this serious incident. The investigator has reviewed the maintenance records and serviceability of the aircraft, and the findings will be discussed in the final report. The investigator has also reviewed the maintenance records of the engine. At this stage, there are no adverse findings.

The operator (Comair Limited) was liquidated shortly after the serious incident and, therefore, the engine teardown could not be undertaken until a new operator is appointed; hence, the delay in the completion of this investigation.

On 14 June 2022, the South Gauteng High Court issued a certificate of appointment to liquidators to settle all matters relating to Comair Limited. On 5 January 2023, the engine manufacturer wrote to the appointed liquidators and Comair Limited representatives, stating that the company position "*will remain unchanged. Once there is a new known owner, and once such owner agrees to proceed with the repair of the engine, then they will provide any requested technical support to the investigation.*"

The technical support will include engine teardown report and the analysis of the findings which led to the engine failure.

Investigators are currently waiting for the new operator to take over from Comair so that the engine can be shipped to the manufacturer for a teardown inspection, and for the technical report to be issued thereafter.

The AIID investigator has collaborated with the State of Manufacturer, the SACAA and other organisations involved in areas of interest (including flight operations, human performance, maintenance procedures and aircraft systems) in this investigation, which is on-going. The investigator will be looking into other aspects of this occurrence which may or may not have safety implications.

This Report is issued by:

**Accident and Incident Investigation Division
South African Civil Aviation Authority
Republic of South Africa**