



SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	19/12/2000	Time of Accident	0540		
Aircraft Registration	ZS-REG	Type of Aircraft	Bell 206L- 4		
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Commercial		Licence Valid	Yes	
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	1390.8	Total Hours on Type	749.9	
Type of Operation	Industrial Aid				
Last point of departure	President Steyn Goldmine near Welkom				
Next point of intended landing	Rand refineries near Rand Airport				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)					
Approximately 10 nm NE of President Steyn Goldmine Near Welkom (27°53'15" S 26°51' 68" E)					
Meteorological Information	The weather was fine with a NE wind 10-15 knots				
Number of people on board	1+1	No. of people injured	None	No. of people killed	None
Synopsis	<p>The pilot departed President Steyn Gold Mine for a flight to Rand Refineries. Approximately 5 minutes after take off, the pilot elected to simulate an approach down to 20 feet and subsequent hovering flight. He unexpectedly experienced a loss of tail rotor effectiveness (LTE) and carried out an emergency landing in an open field. The helicopter was damaged but nobody was injured. The main rotor blades were removed and the helicopter was transported by road to a maintenance facility at Rand Airport.</p>				
Probable Cause					
Due to the loss of tail rotor effectiveness (LTE) the pilot lost directional control of the helicopter followed by a hard landing, causing damage to the helicopter.					