

JTSB Digests

JTSB (Japan Transport Safety Board)

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Digest of Aircraft Accident Analyses For Prevention of Small Aeroplane Accidents

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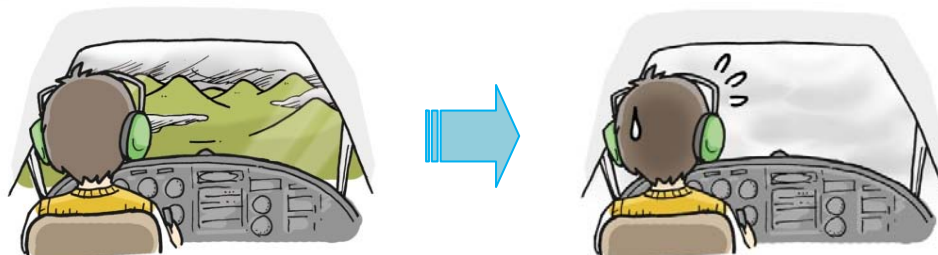
1. Preface

In September, 2012, the Board made an investigation report public about an accident involving a privately-owned small aeroplane which crashed into the south southeast slope of Mt. Yago, approximately 14km northeast of Kumamoto Airport in January, 2011, and recommended the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) that the fundamentals of VFR (visual flight rules) flights should be disseminated to all GA pilots in Japan in order to prevent accidents involving VFR flights flying into clouds. One example of the fundamentals to be disseminated is that the decision to take-off under VFR must be made only after ascertaining VMC (visual meteorological condition) be maintained throughout the intended route. We pointed out in this recommendation that in the past five years there were four cases where VFR flights of small aeroplanes or rotorcrafts ended up with accidents because they flew in clouds and that the most probable causes of these accidents were insufficient collection of weather information before flights and non-execution of returning to the departed airport upon encountering bad weather conditions, in other words, appropriate actions were not taken.

During the period of January, 2001 to December, 2011, five to ten accidents and serious incidents involving small aeroplanes occurred each year, and this accounts for approximately 1/4 of all the aircraft accidents and serious incidents for which the Board conducted investigations.

In view of these ongoing situations, we present some case studies of accidents involving small aeroplanes investigated by the Board and various statistical data for the prevention of similar accidents.

We hope that this digest will be used as teaching materials on various occasions such as safety seminars held by parties concerned, and will be able to contribute to the prevention of accidents involving small aeroplanes.



● **The definition in this digest of “Small aeroplane accidents and serious incidents”**

Among the aircraft accidents and serious incidents for which the former Aircraft and Railway Accidents Investigation Commission and the Board conducted investigations, accidents and serious incidents involving small aeroplanes (aircrafts with a maximum take-off weight of 5,700 kg or less, excluding ultralight planes).