

This document is a translation of the original assessment in Swedish by SHK of the response to the recommendation. In case of discrepancies between this translation and the Swedish original text, the Swedish text shall prevail in the interpretation of the assessment.

The Swedish Transport Agency

Assessment of the Swedish Transport Agency response to safety recommendations

On September 9, 2020, the final report RL 2020:08 was published concerning an accident in Storsandskär, Umeå, Västerbottens County, on July 14, 2019, related to parachute operations. All onboard were fatally injured (one pilot and eight parachutists).

In the report, two safety recommendations were submitted to the Swedish Transport Agency (RL 2020:08 R3 and R4).

The Swedish Transport Agency was recommended to:

- As part of its oversight activities, ensure that there are appropriate loading instructions or equivalent in place and adhered to for parachute operations (R3).
- With support of SFF, take measures to ensure that licensed parachutists have sufficient knowledge of aircraft mass and balance and flight operational consequences when moving around in the aircraft and that the Pilot/Commander receives the support necessary to maintain the rules that apply to the flight (R4).

On December 9, 2020, the Swedish Transport Agency submitted a response to the recommendations. In the response, the Swedish Transport Agency describes the measures that had been taken at that time as well as measures that had been initiated and would be taken.

On December 8, 2021, another accident occurred in connection with parachute operations. In the accident, which occurred in Örebro, all on board were fatally injured (one pilot and eight parachutists). SHK also investigated this accident.

On June 2, 2022, the Swedish Transport Agency submitted a letter containing additional information regarding the measures that had been taken at that time in response to the recommendations arising from the Umeå accident.

SHK's final report regarding the accident in Örebro was published on January 30, 2023. In the final report (SHK 2023:03) two safety recommendations were submitted to the Swedish Transport Agency, one of which consisted of the Swedish Transport Agency being recommended to take measures, with support of SFF, to ensure that appropriate risk assessments are carried out by pilots according to checklist and applied during flights in relation to parachute operations (SHK 2023:03 R4).

On 25 April 2023, the Swedish Transport Agency submitted a response to that recommendation. In the response, the Swedish Transport Agency presented the measures taken and the work that is ongoing due to the recommendation.

From the answers received from the Swedish Transport Agency regarding the accident in Umeå in 2019 and the accident in Örebro in 2021, it appears that the authority has carried out extensive work together with SFF regarding e.g. risk assessments, support for pilots who fly parachutists and training to ensure that the parachutists have sufficient knowledge. The authority has also freed up resources to be able to focus more on oversight activities regarding the transport of parachutists.

All in all, SHK makes the assessment that safety recommendations 2020:08 R3 and R4 is satisfactory (Closed – adequate response).

Best regards,

Jenny Ferm
Chair Accident Investigations