



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: October 23, 2012

In reply refer to: A-12-59 through -61

Mr. Maurice Girard
Chairman
Flight Test Safety Committee
Post Office Box 986
Lancaster, California 93584

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating transportation accidents, determining their probable cause, and making recommendations to prevent similar accidents from occurring. We are providing the following information to urge your organization to take action on the safety recommendations in this letter.

On October 10, 2012, the NTSB adopted its report concerning the April 2, 2011, accident in which an experimental Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation GVI (G650), N652GD, crashed during takeoff from runway 21 at Roswell International Air Center, Roswell, New Mexico.¹ Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>.

As a result of this investigation, the NTSB issued 10 new recommendations, including five to the Federal Aviation Administration, two to Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, and the following three recommendations to the Flight Test Safety Committee:

A-12-59

In collaboration with the Federal Aviation Administration, develop and issue flight test operating guidance for manufacturers that addresses the deficiencies documented in this report regarding flight test operating policies and procedures and their implementation, and encourage manufacturers to conduct flight test operations in accordance with the guidance.

¹ *Crash During Experimental Test Flight, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation GVI (G650), N652GD, Roswell, New Mexico, April 2, 2011*, Aircraft Accident Report NTSB/AAR-12/02 (Washington, DC: NTSB, 2012).

A-12-60

In collaboration with the Federal Aviation Administration, develop and issue flight test safety program guidelines based on best practices in aviation safety management, and encourage manufacturers to incorporate these guidelines into their flight test safety programs.

A-12-61

Encourage members to provide notice of and coordinate high-risk flight tests with airport operations and aircraft rescue and firefighting personnel.

These recommendations are derived from the NTSB's investigation and are consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Chairman HERSMAN and Members SUMWALT, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement these recommendations. When responding, please refer to the safety recommendations by their recommendation number. We encourage you to submit updates electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov. If your response includes attachments that exceed 10 megabytes, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. To avoid confusion, please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

Sincerely,

[Original Signed]

Deborah A.P. Hersman
Chairman