



SSN

Soaring Society of Namibia

1.0 IDENTIFIED HAZARD

In terms of its NAMCAR Part 149 Aviation Recreation Organisation (ARO) approval the SSN is overall responsible for the safe conduct of glider flying and pilots within Namibian airspace. This applies to local as well as visiting pilots.

The pan at Bitterwasser glider base is approximately 3000m in diameter with a hard, compacted surface.

However, the international soaring competition takes place during the summer months which occasionally brings with them thunderstorm activities with precipitation.

As has happened in previous years, heavy precipitation can result in flooding of the pan, which renders it unusable for safe flight operations.

2.0 RISK ANALYSIS

It was determined that this identified hazard constitutes a risk.

Analysis of the risk in terms of probability and severity indicate the following:

- PROBABILITY: Flooding of the pan is analysed as "occasional."
- SEVERITY: The consequence of this type of flooding, especially during landings upon return to base analysed as "hazardous."

The risk is therefore classified as 4B.

3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

A rating of 4B places the risk in the "intolerable" region of the risk matrix, necessitating mitigation measures.

4.0 MITIGATION

SHORT TERM:

As pilots from other glider bases also occasionally frequent Bitterwasser, it is essential that pilots from all bases be briefed about this hazard during daily briefing sessions.

During flooding of the pan, all pilots should use the alternative airstrip, designated 09/27 to the North of the pan. This airstrip is partly paved and at a higher elevation than the pan. Adequate water run-off also mitigates the risk of flooding. The runway is clearly demarcated.

LONG TERM:

As above.

Safety is of paramount importance to the SSN and in terms of its mandate to oversee all safety related aspects of its operations in accordance with its MOP and its NAMCAR Part 149 ARO approval, hazards and concomitant risks will be monitored consistently.

R
BUERKLIN
QASO

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J (HANS) WIEHAHN
CONSULTANT

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