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LITHUANIAN TRANSPORT SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

ON THE RESPONSE TO THE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SAFETY INVESTIGATION REPORT

The Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration (hereinafter referred to as "the Administration"), having examined the Safety Investigation Report¹ submitted by you, informs that:

1. Safety Recommendation No SR-2024-A-06 recommends that the Administration, in coordination with the Agency for Transport Excellence (hereinafter referred to as the Agency), should establish that for aircraft that do not have an aircraft type certificate, the special airworthiness certificate may be renewed by airworthiness reviewers approved by the Agency, as is currently the case for general aviation aircraft in accordance with Part ML.A.901 of Annex Vb to Commission Regulation (EU) No 1321/2014 on the continuing airworthiness of aircraft (Part ML).

The provisions on the issuance, extension, suspension or revocation of Special Airworthiness Certificates for experimental category aircraft are laid down in the Aviation Law². The Aviation Law stipulates that the Agency shall issue, extend, suspend or revoke Special Airworthiness Certificates for experimental category aircraft after inspection of such aircraft and after being satisfied of their airworthiness, or after taking into account the recommendations of the Inspector of Airworthiness Review of Experimental Category Aircraft (the Inspector). In the Agency's assessment, the inspectors' recommendations on the airworthiness of the aircraft are often inaccurate and the Agency's re-inspection reveals safety deficiencies. In view of the above, the Administration is of the opinion that special airworthiness certificates for experimental category aircraft (including aircraft without an aircraft type certificate) should continue to be issued by the Agency. Given that the above recommendation is related to the formulation of aviation policy, which is carried out directly by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Transport and Communications should be consulted on the advisability of its implementation.

2. The response to Safety Recommendation SR-2024-A-07 is directly linked to the response to Safety Recommendation SR-2024-A-06.

3. The Administration plans to add provisions on the frequency of control and inspection of inspectors to the Order No 2BE-269³ of the Director of the Administration by the end of 2025, taking into account Safety Recommendation No SR-2024-A-08.

4. Safety Recommendations SR-2024-A-09, SR-2024-A-10, SR-2024-A-11 recommend requirements for aerodromes not covered by the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 139/2014. Due to the large size of the document and the lack of qualified staff, they are planned to be approved in 2026.

¹ Letter from the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania No (8.4.4E) 3A-280 of 26 September 2024 "On the submission of the safety investigation report and safety recommendations".

² Article 6(3)(7), Article 53 of the Aviation Law.

³ Order of the Director of the Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration of 6 October 2021 No 2BE-269 "On the approval of the procedure for the approval of an airworthiness review inspector for an experimental category aircraft".