

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT NO 7/88

REPORT ON THE ACCIDENT TO FOKKER F27 FRIENDSHIP G-BMAU ON 18 JANUARY 1987 AT 2 NM WEST OF EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT

The Inspector's report on this accident was published in January 1989 and copies are now available from HMSO bookshops and accredited agents.

The aircraft was engaged on crew training and crashed during the final stages of a simulated asymmetric instrument approach to land at East Midlands Airport. After the accident one inch of ice was found on the leading edges of the aircraft's wings and tail surfaces.

The report concludes that the probable cause of the accident was that the aircraft became uncontrollable at an airspeed well above both its stalling speed and minimum control speed because its flying and handling characteristics were degraded by an accumulation of ice. The decision by the training captain not to operate the airframe de-icing system was an underlying cause but he could not have been expected to foresee this at the time. A contributory factor was that the operating crew allowed the airspeed to fall below the normal approach speed during the latter stages of the approach.

The report recommended that:

Airworthiness authorities should require aircraft manufacturers to demonstrate satisfactory low speed handling characteristics in icing conditions with one engine inoperative before certifying the airworthiness of aircraft.

A minimum safe airspeed for approaches in icing conditions should be specified in flight manuals where appropriate.