



SAFA Advisory Notice AN-2020/02 – 31.07.2020 PG Tandem Spreader Failure

Background

The SAFA has been made aware of an accident that occurred in France on July 14, in which a tandem PG pilot and passenger perished. The spreader bar failed at the connection point with the glider, leading to the complete separation of the pilot and passenger from the wing.

Findings

The report from the FFVL (Federation Francaise de Vol Libre) suggests that the age of the spreaders was probably the cause of the failure. The FFVL, and indeed the SAFA, recommends that all tandem pilots conduct an inspection of their spreader bars, or have them inspected by a professional member. These should be replaced if there are any visible signs of wear or damage, if they have more than 500 hours of use, or if they are more than 5 years old.

The SAFA takes this opportunity to remind all pilots of the importance of conducting regular checks of their equipment and particularly of tandem equipment.

The notice from the FFVL (in French) can be read here:

https://federation.ffvl.fr/sites/ffvl.fr/files/Communique_accident_bi_juillet_2020_0.pdf