SUMMARY

ACCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN: The locality of Caltrauna, between Los Menucos and Prahuaniyeu, province of Río Negro.

DATE: 18 May 2011 TIME: 23:48 UTC (approx.)

AIRCRAFT: Aeroplane MAKE: Saab

MODEL: 340 A REGISTRATION NUMBER LV-CEJ

PILOT: Airline Transport Pilots Licence CO-PILOT: Commercial Pilots Licence (1st class)

OWNER: Air transport undertaking

Note: All times are expressed in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and the location of the accident is in time zone -3.

FACTUAL INFORMATION

Review of the flight

On 18 May 2011, the pilot in command (PIC) and the crew – composed of the co-pilot (COP) and cabin crew members (CCM) – initiated the flight OSL 5428 from Rosario International Airport (ROS) in the province of Santa Fe at 20:35, the final destination being the Comodoro Rivadavia International Airport (CRD), in the province of Chubut.

The flight had scheduled intermediate stopovers at Cordoba International Airport (COR), Medoza (MDZ), and Neuquén (NQN), according to the company's plans. The company designated aircraft Saab 340A, with registration number LV-CEJ, for the flight.

After having made the intermediate stopovers in Cordoba (COR) and Mendoza (MDZ), the pilot landed the aircraft at the airport in Neuquén at 22:20. After refuelling and carrying out the planned dispatch, the crew and 19 passengers (18 adults and one minor) on board, prepared to make the last leg of the flight OSL 5428, from Neuquén Airport (NQN) to the final destination: Comodoro Rivadavia International Airport (CRD). The flight took off at 23:05.

After the take-off, the aircraft started to climb AWY T 105, to reach FL 190, in accordance with the flight plan. After flying for 24 minutes, the pilot levelled the aircraft at 17 800 ft, and remained at this level for approximately 9 minutes. Due to the fact that the meteorological conditions at this level caused icing, the technical crew descended to FL (flight level) 140. Shifting to FL 140 took five minutes. During this stage of the flight the icing conditions steadily worsened.

By the time the aircraft had reached FL 140, the icing conditions were severe. The aircraft flew for approximately two minutes with a straight and level flight attitude, increasing the accumulation of ice.

Then the aircraft completely lost lift, which resulted in a loss of control, and the subsequent entry into abnormal flight attitude. The aircraft plunged towards the earth and impacted the ground, which resulted in a fire. Everyone on board perished and the aircraft was destroyed.

The accident happened at night under IMC conditions.