

Mr. Rayner,

April 11, 2014

In answer to your question about our experience with the Tango Two aircraft door opening or separating on takeoff or in flight, we have record of three such instances.

Listed chronologically:

- (1) Left door opened and remained attached – This happened about eight years ago on takeoff roll. The left door was not latched prior to initiating the takeoff roll. The left door opened during the takeoff roll, at rotation, prior to liftoff. An abort was successfully accomplished on the remaining runway. There was minor damage to the hinges and door hydraulic strut.
- (2) Left door opened and separated – This happened about five years ago during a demonstration flight, two people on board. During the initial climb after liftoff, approximately 20 feet in the air, the left door opened and separated. The aircraft climbed to pattern altitude, flew a normal pattern and landed without further incident. The aircraft was easily controllable throughout the flight and landing. The pilot had incorrectly latched the door.
- (3) Left door opened and remained attached – This happened about three years ago during takeoff roll. The left door was not latched prior to initiating the takeoff roll. The left door opened during the takeoff roll, at rotation, prior to liftoff. An abort was successfully accomplished on the remaining runway. There was minor damage to the hinges and door hydraulic strut.

I hope this will help in your investigation. If you should need any further information from me please do not hesitate to call or email.

Denny Funnemark
Team Tango
Chief Test Pilot

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