



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Todd Gunther
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: November 25, 2016
Subject: Airplane Information
NTSB Accident Number: ERA17LA054

According to the pilot, Mr. Loofbourrow, he was returning to the airport from a cross country flight in the airplane, and it had been running fine prior to the accident.

Upon touchdown the nose wheel landing gear collapsed. After looking at the landing gear, he believed that the landing gear system down lock was worn and had a bevel in it, that allowed the down lock to slip, or properly not engage the pivot shaft.

He advised that the part number of the down lock was P/N NG-6. This was verified by review of the landing gear system drawings.

Review of a postaccident photo taken of the down lock with the airplane on the ground with the nose landing gear extended in the down and locked position, also confirmed that the down lock was making minimal contact with the pivot shaft.

Mr. Loofbourrow advised that he had built the airplane from plans, and that at the time of the accident the airplane had 1,388 landings.

He advised that he had sent an email to the Defiant Flyers Group so that other owners would be aware of the problem so they could inspect for wear on the down lock as part of their inspections.