

Mechatronics Lab Safety Report

Testing of Electronic Components and assembly of a Tip-Thrust Rotary Aircraft

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date:** | 08/07/2024 |
| **Student & SU nr:** | Rayde Krüger 24723061 |
| **Student contact nr:** | 063 694 9735 |
| **Supervisor:** | Dr Andrew Gill |
| **Lab engineer:** | Mr Kevin Neaves |
| **Head of safety:** | Mr Cobus Zietsman |

Emergency Contacts:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contact:** | **Room nr.** | **Work nr.** | **Cell nr.** |
| Mr K. Neaves | 3001 | - | 021 808 4279 |
| Mr C. Zietsman | M212 | 021 808 4275 | - |
| Campus Security | - | 021 808 2333 | WhatsApp:  082 808 233 |
| Fire Brigade | - | 021 808 8888 | - |
| Ambulance | - | 021 883 3444 | - |

Signatures:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student:  (Rayde Krüger) |  |
| Supervisor:  (Dr A. Gill) |  |
| Lab Engineer:  (Mr K. Neaves) |  |
| Head of Safety:  (C Zietsman) |  |

**Pressure vessels or pipes (check relevant box):**

No pressure vessels or pipes with pressure in excess of 50kPa are involved in this project.

Pressure vessels or pipes in excess of 50kPa are involved – additional signature and report required (refer to Safety Report Guidelines on SUNLearn).

**Hot work / working at heights / confined entry / excavation (check relevant box):**

No hot work / working heights / confined entry / excavation work involved in this project.

Hot work / working heights / confined entry / excavation work (underline relevant work type(s)) involved in this project – additional signature and report required (refer to Safety Report Guidelines on SUNLearn).

**Overview of Testing**

Type of test and standard (if applicable):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Test type** | Testing electronic components and assembly of tip-thrust rotary aircraft |
| **Standard(s)** | IEC 60950-1 / IEC 62368-1: |

Equipment to be used:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Equipment type** | **Make & model** | **Measurement range (if applicable)** | **Resolution (if applicable)** |
| Power supply | - | - | - |
| Oscilloscope | - | - | - |
| Soldering Iron | - | - | - |

**Detailed Experimental Procedure**

The purpose of this section is to clearly communicate the purpose of equipment use and list the steps necessary to prepare the equipment for testing. This report will describe the testing of the electronic components as well as the assembly of the tip-thrust rotary aircraft and the risks associated with them. The purpose of the testing will be to determine the behaviour of the electronics and to test the microcontroller’s programming to control these components. The tip-thrust aircraft will be assembled in the Mechatronics lab, but not tested and no propellers will be connected to the brushless motors during testing.

**Electronics testing setup:**

* Read through the electronic components datasheet and take note of the components' operating voltages
* Identify the emergency stop button (Power supply off switch)
* Ensure all wire connections are securely connected and no cables or components appear damaged.
* Label all wires to prevent incorrect connections
* Verify the power supply and the oscilloscope are functioning correctly

**Testing procedure for electronics:**

* Connect the electronic component being tested according to the wiring diagram
* Switch on the power supply and check the output voltage.
* Test the output signal from the microcontroller and the output of the electronic component being tested on the oscilloscope
* Run the microcontroller's program to be tested and observe how the components
* Change the program as needed and repeat

**Assembly procedure for Tip-thrust Rotary Aircraft:**

* Ensure all parts to be assembled are undamaged and function as intended.
* Assemble the parts as described by the CAD model.
* Install electronic components according to the design specifications
* Ensure all wiring is connected correctly and secured to prevent movement of the wiring.

**Shut down procedure:**

* Stop the software of the microcontroller and ensure all components are in a state to power down
* Turn off the power supply and oscilloscope
* Disassemble components to fit into storage
* Safely store components
* Clean up workstation

**Warning Symbols**

A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generatedA picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generated

(a) Electrical hazard (b) General Warning

Figure 1: Applicable warning/hazard symbols

**General Laboratory Safety**

The following general laboratory safety instructions are applicable:

* No afterhours testing may be performed without the necessary permissions[[1]](#footnote-1).
* Full supervised training is required before testing may be undertaken. Permission to proceed with unsupervised testing should be signed off by the lab engineer.
* Closed shoes must be worn at all times.
* Emergency equipment must be located and easily accessible.
* Students may not work alone in the laboratory.
* Emergency exits must be known. The nearest exits applicable to the setup are provided in Appendix A of this document
* Loose clothing may not be worn. Loose hair must be tied up.
* Good housekeeping practices should be maintained during testing. The lab should be completely clean, including all equipment stored away, after testing. Refer to the General Housekeeping section for particulars regarding practices to be followed for this specific setup.
* No food or drink is permitted in the laboratory.
* Safety report must be visible and accessible during testing.
* No equipment or test may be left unattended.

**Anticipated Interactions with other Laboratory Users**

If possible, the student’s experimental setup will remain within the workspace with a space in between the nearest experiment.

**General Housekeeping**

* Keep workspace tidy while working
* Switch off power supplies after use
* Disassemble the rotor and place it in its storage
* Clean working surface, remove any debris and off cuttings
* Return all equipment to their storage
* Ensure the workstation is clear and clean
* Ensure no personal items are left behind

**Fire Safety**

The DC motors could potentially overheat. This can be avoided by ensuring the motors operate below the maximum operating voltage, ensuring that they do not overheat. Parts of the circuit could short and cause a fire. This hazard can be mitigated by using properly insulated wires and labelling the wires, so wires aren’t incorrectly connected and by having neat solders. In case of a fire, the evacuation plan can be seen in Appendix A. No earphones should be worn while working so fire alarms can be heard.

**Activity Based Risk Assessment**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Risk** | **Risk Type\* (P/E)** | **Mitigating Steps** | **Classification of Risk Severity** |
| GENERAL | | | | |
| Moving around the lab | Tripping or knocking over equipment | P | Be aware of the surrounding equipment and environment when walking in the lab | Acceptable risk |
| Power outages | Data loss and damage to equipment | E | Check the loadshedding schedule beforehand | Possible risk |
| Personal items | Theft of items | P | Don’t leave personal items unattended | Acceptable risk |
| ASSEMBLY PHASE | | | | |
| Soldering components | Burns from equipment and solder | P | Handle the equipment carefully | Acceptable risk |
| Damage components | E | Ensure the soldering iron is not placed where it could damage the component | Acceptable risk |
| Installing electrical components | Electric shocks | P | Ensure the power is off when working with the components | Acceptable risk |
| Shorting electrical components | E | Ensure all components are connected correctly before powering them | Acceptable risk |
| Incorrect connections | E | Ensure components are connected according to the wiring diagram | Acceptable risk |
| Using hand tools | Injuries due to slippage | P | Ensure if a tool slips, no injuries can occur | Acceptable risk |
| Installing motors | Dropping motors | E | Handle motors with care | Acceptable risk |
| Assembling rotor | Pinching fingers | P | Ensure fingers are not caught in between components while assembling | Acceptable risk |
| Cuts from burrs | P | Clean the edges of cut components | Acceptable risk |
| TESTING PHASE | | | | |
| Testing motor | Motors overheat | E | Ensure the motors operate within the rated values | Acceptable risk |
| Burns occur from motor overheating | P | Ensure the motors operate within the rated values | Acceptable risk |
| Testing software | Code not working as intended | P/E | Ensure the code is fully understood before it is uploaded | Acceptable risk |
| Backing up data | Data loss | E | Use a USB/ hard drive which is frequently updated. | Acceptable risk |

\*P – personal, E - equipment

**Disciplinary Actions**

Failure to comply with any of the aforementioned safety regulations or procedures will result in disciplinary action. Students will be issued an initial warning: after three warnings, the lab access is revoked for a month.

**Appendix A: Emergency Evacuation Plans**

A diagram of a building

Description automatically generated

A diagram of a building

Description automatically generated A diagram of an emergency exit

Description automatically generated

1. Written permission from supervisor and approved by the chief safety officer. Attach proof of this permission to this document and note here the times and conditions of the arrangement. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)