

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199800658**

**Kavanagh Balloons Pty Ltd
E-300**

21 February 1998

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

When the balloon landed heavily, the smart vent closed. The vent was tested after the accident and was found to operate correctly. It has since continued to operate normally.

The operator reported that the smart vent was a relatively new invention and was still being developed. The operator also reported that there was an understanding within the company that the vent would not be operated until the balloon was landing.

The operator is amending the company's operating documentation to include a requirement that the smart vent not be operated unless the balloon is within 20 ft of the ground.

