

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

INCIDENT INVOLVING AIRBUS A340, G-VSKY, AT LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT ON 30 JANUARY 2003
(RIGHT MLG LEFT TAXIWAY WHEN AIRCRAFT SLID ON ICE AND SNOW)

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F24/2003
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 07 August 2003
OPERATOR : Virgin Atlantic Airways
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2003/00573
AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 7/2003

SYNOPSIS

(From AAIB Report)

The aircraft was manoeuvring to line-up on Runway 27R and taxiing at a speed of approximately 6 kt when it started to slide on ice and snow. The application of asymmetric thrust failed to prevent the right main landing gear from leaving the paved surface. Subsequent disembarkation of the passengers was delayed for two and a half hours whilst de-icing equipment was provided and the taxiway de-iced. There is currently no requirement to measure or assess the taxiway surface friction conditions and no such measurements were made before or after the incident. A safety recommendation relating to guidance material dealing with contamination of aerodrome surfaces has been made as a result of this incident.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

The one Safety Recommendation, made by the AAIB following their investigation, is reproduced overleaf / below, together with the CAA's response.

Recommendation 2003-51

The CAA review the current guidance material for dealing with winter contamination of aerodrome surfaces detailed in CAP 168 with a view to ensuring that conditions on all aerodrome manoeuvring areas are fit for use by aircraft.

CAA Response

The CAA accepts this Recommendation. The current guidance material contained within CAP 168, for dealing with winter contamination of aerodrome surfaces, is under review by the CAA Aerodrome Standards Department. It is recognised that, whereas guidance for the treatment and maintenance of runways is detailed comprehensively in CAP168, the treatment of taxiways is less well described and, therefore, an amendment to CAP 168 and the UK AIP, covering this issue, will be published shortly.

In addition, a Notice to Aerodrome Licence Holders (NOTAL) will be published prior to 2003 winter operations, reminding aerodrome operators of their responsibility to ensure that all manoeuvring areas have appropriate surface friction levels for safe operation by aircraft.

CAA Status - Open