

Boeing 747-123, G-VMIA

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/98 Ref: EW/G98/06/07 Category: 1.1

Aircraft Type and Registration: Boeing 747-123, G-VMIA
No & Type of Engines: 4 Pratt & Whitney JT9D-7 turbofan engines
Year of Manufacture: 1970
Date & Time (UTC): 6 June 1998 at 1000 hrs
Location: London Gatwick Airport
Type of Flight: Public Transport
Persons on Board: Crew - Not Known - Passengers - Not Known
Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage: Bulk cargo doorway forward edge and sill damaged
Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age: Not Known
Commander's Flying Experience: Not Applicable
Information Source: Airline and Handling Company reports

The aircraft was on parked on Stand 32 at London Gatwick Airport being prepared for departure for a flight to Boston. □ A baggage conveyor being used for loading the bulk cargo hold was incorrectly positioned on the aircraft and so an employee of the handling company was asked by his colleague to move the conveyor. He stood on the vehicle step and released what he thought to be the parking brake. The vehicle moved rapidly backwards and forwards several times, out of control, hitting the aircraft twice and causing damage to the sides of the cargo hold before being stopped by use of the engine stop button.

An investigation was carried out by the handling company who determined that the vehicle had probably been put into gear by mistake by the driver who had been trained to operate other types of vehicle but not yet one of this type. The driver had asked the previous day for his training to be completed because he felt under pressure to become a fully operational member of the team.