

Airbus A300, N70073

AAIB Bulletin No: 12/98 **Ref: EW/G98/08/36** **Category: 1.1**

INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: Airbus A300, N70073

No & Type of Engines: 2 General Electrical CF6-80C2A5 turbofan engines

Year of Manufacture: 1989

Date & Time (UTC): 24 August 1998 at 2008 hrs

Location: London Heathrow Airport

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 13 - Passengers - 120

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Minor to engine cowl

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 58 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 20,000 hours (of which 4,000 were on type)

Last 90 days - 185 hours

Last 28 days - 44 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After landing at night, the crew were allocated Stand H9 for parking. On arrival at the stand, the self parking guidance system lights were not illuminated. As the aircraft was held short to await assistance, a truck arrived at high speed and parked adjacent to the stand. An individual exited the truck, switched on the self parking lights and moved out of sight of the crew. The Commander then concentrated on parking the aircraft using the guidance system and was unaware that anything was amiss until, having completed the parking manoeuvre, he noticed an individual in front of the aircraft giving the stop signal with his arms. He had no wands or lights with which to make himself more conspicuous. The Commander was unaware of any contact but was informed by Operations that the aircraft had struck a parked vehicle. Subsequent inspection indicated that the left engine

cowl had struck the truck that had parked adjacent to the stand. The aircraft was found to be parked correctly.

The Commander considered that the cause of the accident was the failure of ground personnel to clear the parking area before switching on the self parking lighting system.