

# Boeing 737-59D, G-BVKD

AAIB Bulletin No: 12/2001

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Category: 1.1

## INCIDENT

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Boeing 737-59D, G-BVKD	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	2 CFM56-3C1 turbofan engines	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1992	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	29 August 2001 at 0941 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	London Heathrow Airport	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Public Transport	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 7	Passengers - 42
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - None
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	One inch puncture to skin, forward of starboard cargo door	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	57 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	17,000 hours (of which 6,100 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 160 hours	
	Last 28 days - 50 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft had just parked on Stand C14 at London Heathrow Airport when the crew felt an impact on the forward right side of the aircraft. Investigation revealed that a baggage tug towing a number of baggage trolleys had struck the right side of the aircraft fuselage just ahead of the forward cargo door. Closer examination showed that the front offside roof of the tug driver's cabin had punctured the aircraft skin.

The tug was being driven in a mainly south easterly direction when the collision occurred and the driver stated that he had been blinded by the sun during his approach to the aircraft.

Damage to aircraft caused by ground handling vehicles is not only costly to repair but in the worst case, if the damage goes undetected, it is potentially dangerous. Modern technology permits the fitting of proximity sensors to vehicles, and the following recommendation is made to the Airport Operators Association:

**Recommendation 2001-78**

It is recommended that the Airport Operators Association should examine the feasibility and cost effectiveness of fitting proximity sensors to ground handling vehicles that are routinely required to operate close to aircraft.