

INCIDENT

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): 16 March 1995 at 1124 hrs

Location: London Heathrow Airport

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 19 Passengers - 389

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Overheat of galley lift motor

Commander's Licence: Not supplied

Commander's Age: Not supplied

Commander's Flying Experience: Not supplied

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

During the climb smoke was reported from the lower lobe galley; the Flight Engineer investigated and found smoke coming from the forward galley lift shaft. Fire extinguishers were used and the lower lobe galley drill was carried out, however, the smoke continued. The lift motor was shut off by the cabin crew opening the lift door: this removed electrical power from the lift motor but allowed smoke into the galley and passenger cabin area. A 'PAN' call was made and an uneventful return to Gatwick was carried out.

On investigation it was found that the lift door mounted motor limit switch was defective, this permitted the motor to continue running after the lift had reached its physical stop. The motor then overheated, resulting in smoke from the paint on the motor casing, and the oil inside the motor.

The flight crew were unable to electrically isolate the lift due to a misunderstanding of the electrical power distribution system. An advisory memo on electrical power distribution has been issued by the Company to clarify the situation.