

AAIB Bulletin No: 2/95

Ref: EW/G94/11/05

Category: 1.1

Aircraft Type and Registration: Boeing 747-2J6F, B-2462

No & Type of Engines: 4 Pratt & Whitney JT9D turbofan engines

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date & Time (UTC): 4 November 1994 at 1555 hrs

Location: London Stansted Airport, Essex

Type of Flight: Public Transport (Freight)

Persons on Board: Crew - 8 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Right wing outboard area damaged

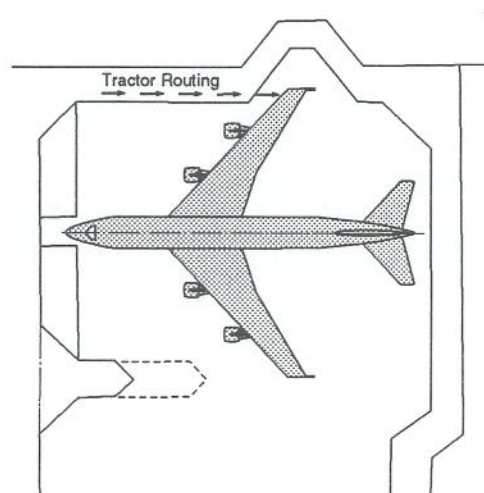
Commander's Licence: N/K

Commander's Age: 47 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 13,000 hours

Information Source: Accident Reports from aircraft commander, Airport Operator and Ground Handling Agency

The aircraft arrived on Stand A6 at Stansted Airport at 1553 hrs and shortly afterwards a Ground Handling Agency employee proceeded to position a 747 tailpost from the head of the stand to the rear of the aircraft. He towed the stand with a tractor along the marked out roadway along the right side of the aircraft but on reaching a bend where the roadway diverges away from the stand centreline to avoid the area under the outer part of the wing he continued in a straight line, believing that the tailpost would pass beneath the wing. However, the tailpost had been extended prior to the aircraft's arrival to allow for more rapid positioning and embedded itself in the wing leading edge. The leading edge was extensively damaged over a length of about 2 feet and a panel on the underside of the wingtip was holed.

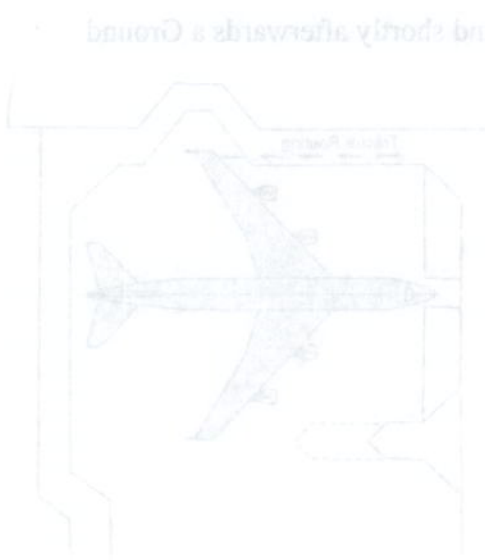


The driver was suspended from his duties and has subsequently received a ramp procedures refresher course and undergone a further airside driving test. Since the accident the Airport Operator has issued a Ramp Instruction:

'RE: 747 TAILPOST

When positioning the 747 tailpost where ever possible it should be positioned at the bottom end of the stand prior to the aircraft arrival.

When this is not possible the post must only be towed along the marked out roadways and **NEVER UNDER THE WINGS'**



The aircraft arrived on Stand A6 at Stansted Airport at 1353 hrs and shortly afterwards a Ground Handling Agency employee proceeded to position a 747 tailpost from the head of the stand to the rear of the aircraft. He towed the stand with a tractor along the marked out roadway along the right side of the aircraft but on reaching a bend where the roadway diverges away from the stand continued to avoid the area under the outer part of the wing he continued in a straight line, believing that the tailpost would pass beneath the wing. However the tailpost had been extended prior to the aircraft's arrival to allow for more rapid positioning and embedded itself in the wing leading edge. The leading edge was extensively damaged over a length of about 2 feet and a panel on the underside of the wingtip was holed.