

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/93

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Category: 1a

Aircraft Type and Registration: McDonnell Douglas DC-9-81, OE-LDY

No & Type of Engines: 2 JTD-217 turbofan engines

Year of Manufacture: 1984

Date & Time (UTC): 8 July 1993 at 0835 hrs

Location: London Heathrow Airport

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 6 Passengers - 133

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Slat No 5 on port outer wing damaged by a 155 mm indentation and hole

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 33 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 8,200 hours (of which 4,200 were on type)
Last 90 days - 100 hours
Last 28 days - 70 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The flight from Vienna landed at London Heathrow Airport and was allocated Stand F6 for parking. The aircraft commander states that, when the aircraft turned onto the stand, there were no vehicles in the manoeuvring area, although a flatbed truck carrying containers and a fuel truck were positioned adjacent to it in the sterile area between F6 and F4. As the aircraft taxied along the centreline of the stand, the port wing struck a container on the back of the flatbed truck, which had been parked with its rear end protruding three to four metres into the F6 manoeuvring area.

The driver of the flatbed truck states that, when the accident occurred, he had left the vehicle with the handbrake firmly on and was assisting with the positioning of passenger steps at the rear of another aircraft which had just arrived on stand F4. The driver of the fuel truck, seeing the accident about to happen, ran across to the flatbed truck, but was too late to move it before the wing of the DC 9 struck the container.

The feasibility of installing a suitable system to advise pilots of the need for an emergency stop whilst approaching a stand is being investigated.