

Embraer EMB-145EP, G-ERJA

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/2003	Ref: EW/G2003/05/16	Category: 1.1
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Embraer EMB-145EP, G-ERJA	
No & Type of Engines:	2 Allison AE3007A1/1 turbofan engines	
Year of Manufacture:	2000	
Date & Time (UTC):	13 May 2003 at 1500 hrs	
Location:	Stand 54L, Manchester Airport	
Type of Flight:	Public Transport (Passenger)	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 4	Passengers - 37
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	No 2 engine cowl dented	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	40 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	5,700 hours (of which 800 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 80 hours	
	Last 28 days - 26 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Having completed their pre-start checks, which included a ground crew check that all ground equipment was clear, the crew were cleared by ATC for a pushback off Stand 54L. The ground crew member, in contact with the flight crew by headset, stated that he checked beneath the aircraft prior to pushback but observed no obstructions. After approximately 15 metres however, the aircraft came to an abrupt stop, the towbar sheared and the ground crew informed the commander that the aircraft had hit a parked van. Inspection revealed damage to the right hand engine cowl that was subsequently replaced.

The pushback was a standard two-man operation using procedures based on Manchester Airport Authority's Safety Instruction 02/2000. The vehicle involved was a cargo van that had been parked for 3 to 4 minutes awaiting an inbound aircraft on the adjacent stand. This vehicle accessed its parked position from the rear of the stand contrary to published procedures.

As a result of this incident, the Airport Authority have reissued Safety Instruction 02/2000 and the operator of the cargo van has issued a safety brief reconfirming safe working practices.