Boeing 737-548, EI-CDS

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/98 Ref: EW/G97/12/10Category: 1.1

Aircraft Type and Registration: Boeing 737-548, EI-CDS

No & Type of Engines: 2 CFM56-3-B1 turbofan engines

Year of Manufacture: 1992

Date & Time (UTC): 16 December 1997 at 1053 hrs

Location: London (Heathrow) Airport

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 4 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to engine cowling

Commander's Licence: Not relevant

Commander's Age: Not relevant

Commander's Flying Experience: Not relevant

Information Source: Accident Report Form submitted by the police

At the time of the occurrence the aircraft was parked on StandN90 and was being loaded and refuelled; the flight crew had notyet boarded the aircraft. A small tug, towing a line of baggagetrucks, approached the aircraft and attempted to manoeuvre thebaggage trucks close to the forward hold. The driver misjudgedthe turn and the tug struck the right engine cowling at a slowspeed causing a 3 inch split in the cowling.