

UK FLIGHT SAFETY COMMITTEE



CARGO SAFETY BULLETIN

NUMBER 5

CHECK THE DOOR SAFETY STRAP

The smallest things matter when loading aircraft. On this occasion, all the ULDs were correctly positioned, all the locks were up, the DGs were handled safely and all the paperwork was in order. The cargo door was closed and the aircraft departed on time.

EVENT

On arrival at the destination, it was discovered that a length of the door safety strap – the red strap that is placed across the entrance when the high-loader is not in position – had been hanging outside the aircraft. This may seem to be a little like finding your raincoat belt has been dragging along the road after you closed the car door but you don't drive your car at 500mph!

COMMENT

For several hours of flight the strap had been hammering against the side of the fuselage and it seriously damaged the area around the static port. This small brass plate on the side of the aircraft is a critically important source of information for the flight instrument system. Repairs were needed before the aircraft could be returned to service – and just because someone did not stow the safety strap properly.

Don't Assume, Check!