

BAA HS&E ALERT



This HS&E alert relates to a recent incident which has highlighted an HS&E issue within BAA. The Risk and Safety Management Director has identified the need to communicate this issue throughout BAA in order to ensure that steps are taken to prevent a reoccurrence. This HS&E alert should be communicated to all appropriate parties and responsibilities assigned locally to ensure action is taken.

Title: 2008–10–17–005 HS&E Alert 005 – Wheelchair Fire

Date of Incident: 07/09/2008

Date of HS&E Alert: 17/10/2008

Incident Details:

On Sunday September 7th 2008 an electric wheelchair stored in the hold onboard a First Choice flight (FCA 2662) to Manchester burst into flames shortly after landing at Manchester airport. The battery on the wheelchair had not been disconnected.

Learning:

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation, but it does highlight the need for vigilance when taking items on board aircraft.

Electric wheelchairs fall under the UK legal requirements for the carriage of dangerous goods by air.

When dangerous goods are carried, the Captain must be notified of their presence in the hold, and a form (Notification to Captain 'NOTOC') needs to be completed (by the aircraft dispatcher) which states the type of dangerous goods and where they are loaded in the holds. This is information that Pilots need to know (and declare in emergency landing situations).

The CAA offers the following advice for carrying wheelchairs:

- Wheelchairs or other battery-powered mobility aids with spillable batteries must be loaded, stowed, secured and unloaded always in an upright position, the battery must be securely attached to the equipment, be disconnected and the terminals insulated to prevent accidental short circuits.
- When the equipment cannot be kept upright, the battery must be removed and carried in a strong, rigid packaging, which must be leak-tight and impervious to battery fluid. The battery in the packaging must be protected against accidental short circuits, be held upright and be surrounded by absorbent material in sufficient quantity to absorb the total liquid contents. The package containing the battery must have on it "Battery wet, with wheelchair" or "Battery wet, with mobility aid", bear a "Corrosives" label and be marked to indicate its correct orientation. The package must be protected from upset by securement in the cargo compartment of the aeroplane.
- The commander (pilot) must be informed of the location of a wheelchair or mobility aid with an installed battery or of a packed battery.

HS&E ALERT
ACTION: ACT AND RAISE AWARENESS

Actions:

1. Check that the responsibilities for the safe isolation, handling and stowage of electrically-powered personal mobility devices are well-understood between the following parties:
 - Passenger
 - Airline
 - PRM Service Provider
 - Ground Handler

2. Ensure that appropriate parties understand the requirement to complete the Notification to Captain 'NOTOC' as per the UK legal requirements for the carriage of dangerous goods by air contained within the Air Navigation (Dangerous Goods) Regulations (AN(DG)Rs).

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE DISCHARGE OF THIS ACTION LIES WITH THE BAA CONTRACT MANAGER FOR PRM SERVICES

Distribution:

From source this is distributed to the Contract Managers for PRM services, Heads of Health and Safety, Airside Operations and the Fire Service.

This has been sent to:

Area	Name (Title)
PRM CONTRACT MANAGERS	Barry Carter (First and Last Impressions Business Lead, Stansted)
	Rob Erskine (Solutions Delivery Leader, Gatwick)
	Caroline Brace (Contracts Manager, Heathrow)
	David Doran (Terminal Manager, Edinburgh)
	Mark Johnston (Customer Services Manager, Glasgow)
	Will Dougherty (Customer Services Director Aberdeen)
	David O'Neil (Head of Customer Services Aberdeen)
H&S	Adrian Collins (Risk and Safety Management Director)
	Mike Evans (Head of HS&E, Capital Projects)
	Simon Black (Head of Health and Safety Heathrow)
	Ian Martin (Health & Safety Team Leader Gatwick)
	Andy Sneddon (Head of Health, Safety and Environment Stansted)
	Katie Jeffs (Head of Safety and Business Continuity Southampton)
	Gillies Crichton (Compliance Manager Glasgow)
	Grant Kennedy (Compliance Manager Edinburgh)
	Steven Law (Health and Safety Manager Aberdeen)
AIRSIDE OPERATIONS	Tim Hardy (Airside Director)
	Andrew Badham (Head of Airside Operations)
	Ian Witter (Head of Airside Assurance)
	John Hamshare (Airside Services Manager)
	Colin Wood (Airside Operations Director Heathrow)
	David Wilson (Head of Airside Operations Gatwick)
	Frank McCrorie (General Manager Airside and Logistics Stansted)
	Trevor Waldock (Deputy Head of Airside Stansted)
	Jim Stevenson (Airside Manager Glasgow)
	Jennifer Murray (Airfield Operations Manager Edinburgh)
	Darren Williams (Airfield Manager Aberdeen)
Mark Gibb (Head of Airside Operations Southampton)	
FIRE SERVICE	Gary Moorshead (Chief Fire Officer)

Further Information:

Please contact Louis Smith (Louis_Smith@baa.com)

Authorised Signatory:

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