

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

ACCIDENT TO DHC8-311, G-BRYW, AT ABERDEEN AIRPORT ON 7 OCTOBER 2005

(GROUND POWER UNIT STRUCK STATIONARY AIRCRAFT)

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F45/2006
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 12 December 2006
OPERATOR : BA CitiExpress
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2005/08346
AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 11/2006

SYNOPSIS

(From AAIB Report)

The DHC-8 aircraft was parked on stand, all the passengers were on board and the engines had been started. Shortly after the Ground Power Unit (GPU) cables had been disconnected from the aircraft, and with nobody in the cab, the GPU moved forward and struck the rotating propeller on the right engine before coming to rest against the fuselage. All the occupants exited the aircraft through the passenger door and no one was injured. The investigation identified a number of maintenance issues with the GPU. No issues were revealed with either the serviceability or operation of the aircraft, and hence this report is focused on the GPU.

Three safety recommendations are made; these relate to the regulations for ground vehicles operating near aircraft, maintenance of the ground vehicle and the manufacturer's servicing schedule.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

The three Safety Recommendations, made by the AAIB following their investigation, are reproduced below, together with the CAA's responses.

Recommendation 2006-92

It is recommended that British Airways review their operations at Aberdeen Airport to ensure that airside vehicles are maintained in accordance with the appropriate manufacturer's recommended servicing schedule and to ensure that their defect reporting system for ground vehicles operates effectively.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed

Recommendation 2006-93

It is recommended that Houchin Aerospace update their recommended servicing schedule to include checks for governor rods, fuel pump springs and forward-neutral reverse selectors at appropriate intervals. These changes should be promulgated to all operators of relevant equipment world-wide.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed

Recommendation 2006-94

It is recommended that Houchin Aerospace review the design of their engine control systems for self-propelled ground equipment to ensure that safety is not compromised if there is a system failure.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed