

22 March 2023

ASDRVE_SA_049

V1.0

Safety Alert

Use of Uncontrolled Crossings



1. Introduction

The purpose of this Safety Alert is to remind airfield drivers of the hazards and safety considerations when using uncontrolled taxiway crossings, following a number of recent incidents whereby vehicles have failed to give way to aircraft pushing back from adjacent stands.

2. Safety Considerations and Requirements

When approaching an uncontrolled crossing, you must come to a stop. Observe the painted markings on the floor and the signage adjacent to the crossing; you must give way to both aircraft and vehicles traversing the manoeuvring area. Perform a visual check of aircraft manoeuvring on the taxiway and observe all the stands around you, both adjacent and opposite, for signs that an aircraft may be about to commence push back, such as;

- Airbridge removed from the aircraft door
- Chocks and cones removed
- A lack of ground support equipment engaged with the aircraft or on stand
- Presence of a push back tug and associated staff
- Aircraft anti-collision lights illuminated

Uncontrolled crossings are roadways that run across sections of taxiway. These crossings are marked by black and white checker board markings. Vehicles must remain within the markings and keep to the left of approaching vehicles. Additional signage is provided at uncontrolled crossings.



Drivers using an uncontrolled crossing must give way at all times to aircraft/vehicles using the taxiway, and aircraft pushing back from adjacent stands. However, taxiway drivers are still required to give way to vehicles that are already on the crossing.

Drivers using the uncontrolled crossing must bring their vehicles to a full stop and perform a careful check of their surroundings prior to using the crossing.

Once drivers have entered the crossing they should proceed across as expeditiously as possible but not break the 20mph speed limit, maintaining a good lookout at all times.

Drivers should only use uncontrolled crossings as a last resort and must use the airside road network. This reduces the risks involved in using uncontrolled crossings and helps reduce congestion on the taxiways.

The use of Grass Area 20 uncontrolled crossing is strictly prohibited with the exemption of the following vehicles:

- Electric Baggage Tugs
- Passenger steps
- Loading Elevators
- Televators
- Belt Loaders
- Fuel Bowsers
- Mobile Elevated Working Platform
- UK Power Networks (accessing the substation in GA20)
- Aircraft Engineering towing wheel change equipment
- Snow Fleet
- Airside Operations
- Emergency Services
- Recovery vehicles towing GSE or vehicles

In the event of the ART being closed drivers will be directed to use Grass Area 20 at which point the above restriction will be temporarily suspended during this closure.

Vehicles are not permitted to cross taxiways except at specified crossing points.

Pedestrians are not permitted to use uncontrolled crossings under any circumstances.

All vehicles intending to use an uncontrolled crossing must have a fully serviceable obstruction light which must be switched on.



Vehicles must cross behind aircraft at a distance greater than two aircraft lengths. If an aircraft is under tow, then one aircraft length distance must have passed before crossing.

Vehicles must not tailgate other vehicles when using an uncontrolled crossing.

In times of adverse weather such as low visibility, or snow obstructing paint markings then a dynamic risk assessment will need to be undertaken by the driver as to whether it is safe to cross. If the building on the other side of the taxiway cannot be seen, the crossing must not be used refer ASWeather_OSI_052 Low Visibility Operations. In low visibility conditions, some uncontrolled crossings will be supervised and controlled by ASD with Leader vehicle escort -In these circumstances drivers must wait to be escorted across the crossing. Other crossings may be closed by the Airside Safety Department (ASD) and must not be used.

Enquiries

Any questions regarding this Safety Alert should be addressed to airside_safety@heathrow.com

Additional information, Operational Safety Instructions (OSIs) and Operational Advice Notices (OANs) can be found at heathrow.com/airside/useful-publications

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