

# Safety Alert

## Change to surface conditions after Airfield de-icing media use.

25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

ASGrOps\_SA\_014

v1.0

This safety alert is issued to the Airside community as an awareness of an incident which occurred on the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> January involving an aircraft tug towing an aircraft. It is recommended that all airfield personnel, particularly manoeuvring area drivers and colleagues on foot on stand are reminded that paint markings may provide less friction than usual when liquid de-icing products have been applied to them, and take steps accordingly to minimise the risk of slipping.

At 0515 on 24<sup>th</sup> January, an aircraft tug was towing an A340-600 to stand 582. The tug began its turn onto stand at or around the lead-in arrow and stand number paint marking. It is believed that as the tug commenced its turn towards the stand, it lost traction on the painted area of the taxiway surface and the tug rotated away from the aircraft. This resulted in the shearing of the tow bar pin and damage to the nose gear and tyres of the aircraft. The aircraft remained in the taxiway whilst a repair was effected to the nose-gear and then towed the remainder of the distance to stand.



Overnight on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Heathrow had carried out a routine anti-icing treatment of the runways and taxiways using a liquid anti-icing product. The product is viscous in nature, and when applied to airfield paint markings it can temporarily reduce the friction characteristics of the surface. This means that vehicles or personnel should take extra care when manoeuvring over large painted areas (such as stand lead in markings and aircraft stop marks on stands). Consider the speed of approach and avoid turning sharply on large paint marks where possible. Areas of taxiway which have been anti-iced will be identifiable as generally the centre portion of the taxiway will be a different colour to the edges, or to the stands – as shown in the image above ^.



Heathrow will promulgate to the community via the AOP (CDM) portal when the airfield has received an anti-icing treatment. Operating companies should pass this information to employees where appropriate.

### Enquiries

Any questions regarding this Safety Alert should be addressed to the Safety & Assurance Team at [airside\\_safety@heathrow.com](mailto:airside_safety@heathrow.com). Additional information, Operational Safety Instructions (OSIs) and Operational Advice Notices (OANs) can be found at [heathrow.com/airside/useful-publications](http://heathrow.com/airside/useful-publications)



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**Reference:**

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