

08<sup>th</sup> March 2024

ASGrOps\_SA\_064

V1.0

## Safety Alert

### Approaching Live Aircraft

#### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this Safety Alert is to remind colleagues that an aircraft should never be approached until it is safe to do so. This Safety Alert follows a recent incident where a Team Heathrow colleague approached an aircraft as it was manoeuvring onto stand to park, still following the stand entry guidance.



#### 2. Safety Considerations

- As outlined in OSI AsGrOps\_OSI\_021 and ASGrOps\_OSI\_022, HSG 209, IATA IGOM, only when the aircraft has fully stopped, engines shut down and the aircraft anti-collision lights have been switched off may ground staff approach the aircraft.
- Always remain vigilant and look and listen for signs of the engines switching off and spooling down.
- Remain away from the aircraft until the anti-collision lights have been switched off. Typically, these are red flashing lights, situated under the belly of the aircraft and on top of the fuselage. (In the case of some turboprop aircraft, the anti-collision lights may be white and/ or situated at the top of the tail fin).
- On turboprop aircraft, take extra care to ensure the props have stopped rotating prior to approaching.
- In the event of an aircraft arriving with an inoperative APU, follow the direction of your ramp lead and company procedures. Do not assume it is safe to approach the aircraft just because you observe others doing so.
- Always challenge unsafe acts and behaviours. Also report and safety incidents and close calls.
- In an emergency, dial 222 from a head of stand phone or 020 8759 1212 from an external phone.



#### Enquiries

Any questions regarding this Safety Alert should be addressed to [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](https://heathrow.com/airside/useful-publications)

#### Reference:

Author: Ryan Ongcoy  
Job title: Ground Handling Manager  
Location: Airside Operations Facility

Effective date: 08 March 2024  
Approved by: Michael Goacher  
Job title: Airside Standards & Assurance Manager

