

16th September 2025

ASGrOps_SA_077

Version 1.0

Safety Alert

Tow Bar Feet

1. Introduction

Since January 2025, there have been four separate incidents where tow bar feet were found on the taxiway. These pose a serious Foreign Object Debris (FOD) risk, with one incident resulting in significant damage to an aircraft wheel.

This safety alert serves as a reminder to all ground handling teams of their responsibilities in preventing such occurrences.

2. Action Required

- Pushback teams must ensure the tow bar tap is fully closed before any manoeuvre begins. This is critical to prevent detachment during towing.
- Handlers are strongly encouraged to inspect all equipment, including tow bar feet, for signs of wear, erosion, or damage. Only serviceable equipment should be used.
- Airside Operations will conduct proactive monitoring to ensure compliance with equipment standards.
- Failure to meet these requirements may result in penalty points being issued due to the safety risks involved.



3. 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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