Aerodrome Safety

4th November 2025

ASGrOps_SA_081

V1.0

Safety Alert

Approaching Live Aircraft – On foot or in vehicles

1. Introduction

This Safety Alert is being issued following 11 concerning incidents involving Team Heathrow colleagues approaching live aircraft—either on foot or in vehicles—whilst the anti-collision lights were illuminated or the engines still running. This behaviour poses a significant safety risk, including potential ingestion hazards and exposure to jet blast.

2. Action Required

Thorough visual checks **must** be conducted before approaching any aircraft. These include:

- ✓ **The red anti-collision lights are not illuminated/flashing (located as shown in the image to the right)**
- ✓ **The engines are completely spooled down**
- ✓ **The aircraft is not moving/chocks are in position**

Note – On turboprop aircraft, the anti-collision lights may be white in colour and situated at the top of the tail fin. Take extra care to ensure the props have stopped rotating prior to approaching.

If an aircraft is arriving with an inoperative APU, always follow your company's established procedures for powering the aircraft while the engines are running. Do not approach the aircraft if you see others doing so—this does not guarantee it is safe. Instead, wait for clear direction from your supervisor before proceeding. **If you are unsure of anything – Stop in a safe position and wait.**

3. Enquiries

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

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

Reference:	
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