

21st November 2025

ASGrOps_SA_082

V1.0

Safety Alert

Pedestrian Safety Around Aircraft

1. Introduction

This Safety Alert is being issued to remind colleagues of the risks and hazards associated with ground handling and aircraft turnaround operations. Over the summer schedule, aircraft movements on the airfield have steadily increased. As we transition into winter operations, it is essential to remain vigilant. Colder weather conditions, reduced daylight hours, and potential ice, snow or low visibility can introduce additional hazards on the apron. The apron environment is often congested, with multiple stakeholders working alongside each other within a restricted footprint.

2. Action Required

As outlined in Operational Safety Instruction (OSI) [ASGrOps_OSI_093_Aircraft_Arrival_Turnaround_and_Departure_on_Stand_v1.pdf](#), HSG 209, IATA IGOM, ground handling colleagues must only approach the aircraft when:

- It has come to a complete stop
- Engines have spooled down
- Aircraft anti-collision lights have been switched off

-Always remain vigilant to both visual and auditory cues indicating that the engines are spooling down.

-Remain clear of the aircraft until the anti-collision lights have been switched off. These lights are typically **red and flashing**, located under the belly of the aircraft and on top of the fuselage.

-On some turboprop aircraft, the anti-collision lights may be **white** and/or positioned at the top of the tail fin. Always confirm propellers have stopped rotating before approaching.

-Be mindful of surface contaminants such as water or ice, and ensure that safety footwear is worn, in good condition, and securely fastened.

Always challenge unsafe acts and behaviours, and ensure all safety incidents and near misses are reported.

In an emergency, dial 222 from a head of stand phone or 020 8759 1212 from an external phone.



3. Enquiries

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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