
Windscreen sparks, Airbus Industrie A310, 5B-DAX, 1 October 1998 at 0920 hrs

Micro-summary: Sparks on the windscreen on this Airbus A310.

Event Date: 1998-10-01 at 0920 UTC

Investigative Body: Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB), United Kingdom

Investigative Body's Web Site: <http://www.aaib.dft.gov/uk/>

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AAIB Bulletin No: 4/99 Ref: EW/G98/10/01 Category: 1.1

Aircraft Type and Registration: Airbus Industrie A310, 5B-DAX

No & Type of Engines: 2 CF6-80C2 turbofan engines

Year of Manufacture: 1988

Date & Time (UTC): 1 October 1998 at 0920 hrs

Location: London Heathrow Airport

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 9 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: First Officer's windscreen overheated

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 46 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 15,000 hours (of which 5,500 were on type)
Last 90 days - 180 hours
Last 28 days - 65 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was parked on Stand E38 at Heathrow Airport. As the passengers were about to board, the First Officer noticed smoke and sparks from his windscreen. The fire services were alerted but the fire self-extinguished and it could then be seen that the windscreen was cracked in a number of places.

It was expected at the time that the windscreen heating controller had malfunctioned, allowing high current to remain applied after the aircraft touched down. The controller, P/No 6664157, was removed and returned to the manufacturer for examination which showed that its temperature detection thresholds were out-of-tolerance. After adjustment of the thresholds and embodiment of modifications, the unit was returned to service.