

31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

ASGrOps\_SA\_059

V1.0

## Safety Alert

### Hand Injuries on Belt Loaders

#### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this Safety Alert is to highlight two recent incidents in which Team Heathrow colleagues have sustained hand injuries whilst operating belt loaders.

One incident on 28<sup>th</sup> August involved a ramp agent at the top of a belt loader lean out of the aircraft hold to grab a bag. In doing so they rested their other hand on the moving belt which was pulled into the mechanism. An incident on 29<sup>th</sup> August involved a ramp agents hand trapped in the belt mechanism as they were leaning on the belt when it was switched on by another colleague.

Both incidents occurred at the top of the belt loader as the belt was transporting bags toward the aircraft.



#### 2. Safety Considerations

- Before operating a belt loader, ensure that no colleagues are resting on the equipment and that it is clear of any obstruction. Perform a visual check and communicate with your colleagues prior to starting the equipment.
- Avoid leaning on belt loaders. If working at the top within the aircraft, position and support yourself in a manner that reduces the likelihood of using the belt as support.
- Follow your manual handling training and consider hand and body placement when moving items on and off the belt.
- Ensure you are wearing correct PPE, such as gloves. Also ensure that you are not wearing any loose garments which may be caught or ingested into the belt mechanism.

#### 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: Alex Bailey

Job title: Airside Safety Investigation Manager

Location: Airside Operations Facility

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Approved by: Michael Goacher

Job title: Standards and Assurance Manager

