

Aviation Safety Bulletin

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Subject:

Aircraft fuselage damage by ground supporting equipment.

Background:

An aircraft en-route to Taipei encountered a hailstorm during flight, causing severe indentations on the RADOME as well as cracking the captain side windshield.

While the aircraft was towed into the hangar for fuselage structural inspection, the high lift platform vehicle overran and dropped onto the right hand side of the aircraft fracturing the fuselage skin panel severely.

Through further investigation of the platform vehicle, found its limit switch (P/N: ESLOIL)to be shorted to ground due to moisture entrapment. After replacing the limit switch, an operational function test was performed and the high lift platform vehicle was returned to normal function.

Recommendation :

Reinforcing the daily and routine check, ensuring that the limit switch is functioning normally, and check that there is no evidence of moisture contamination to the junction box and its electrical control and without water contamination to all of the electrical wiring.

Reinforcing routine checks of the wiring and performance the hydraulic system testing.

Strictly enforcing mechanic trained for such special equipment and to operate such equipment, and remain with such equipment during all operations to prevent recurrence of aircraft being hit by ground support vehicle.