



AIRSIDE SAFETY ALERT

Reference	ASA 2021/02		
Date Issued	24/02/2021		
Issued By	Dan Jones	Position	Airside Operations and Safety Manager
Subject	DISCONNECTING GPU FROM AIRCRAFT		

An Airside Safety Alert (ASA) will be issued to communicate immediate safety concerns relating to operations, equipment or environment, and to highlight negative safety trends. It is the responsibility of all employers to ensure that relevant ASAs are brought to the attention of their staff.

1. OBJECTIVE

To remind ground handling colleagues of the correct process to follow when disconnecting a Ground Power Unit (GPU) from an aircraft, to avoid damage to the GPU or aircraft.

2. SCOPE

This instruction is relevant to all ground handling agents authorised to operate and tow GPUs.

3. INFORMATION

In the previous two years at Bristol Airport, a GPU has been towed away from an aircraft with the GPU plug/cable still connected to the aircraft, on five occasions. These have normally resulted in damage to the GPU plug, damage to the aircraft GPU connection panel, or both. The most recent incident occurred in February 2021.



Trailing cable pulled from the aircraft



Damaged GPU plug

4. INSTRUCTIONS

It is important that all operators follow a set process for disconnecting a GPU from the aircraft, to prevent damage to the aircraft or GPU.

1. Check with the flight crew that external power is no longer required.
2. Turn off the GPU.
3. Remove the GPU plug from the aircraft.
4. Store cable in the side of the GPU and insert plug fully into the holder (on some models an alarm will sound if the GPU towing arm is lowered before the plug is returned to the holder).
5. Lower the towing arm and connect to the towing vehicle.
6. Complete a **FULL WALK-AROUND** of the GPU.
7. Remove the chocks.
8. Tow the GPU to an Equipment Parking Area or a marked GPU box, if required.



5. GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Any enquiries or safety/near miss reports should be submitted to **Airside Operations** on **01275 473705** or **07712 792235**.