

WAKE VORTEX POLICY

What is wake vortex?

Wake turbulence is a natural, unavoidable consequence of aircraft operations as a by-product of lift creation. It commences at take off and continues until touchdown. The wake consists of two counter-rotating cylindrical vortices, the strength of which is governed by the weight, speed and wing shape of the aircraft.

The intensity of the wake is also affected by prevailing weather conditions. In still conditions, the spirals sink towards the ground and degrade slowly, whereas in windy conditions they generally degrade quite quickly.

Occasionally, when the weather is calm, wake turbulence has been known to cause damage (such as dislodged roof tiles) to property on the ground. However this is a rare occurrence.

How to report suspected vortex damage

Contact London Stansted's Airside Operations Manager on 01279 662378 (24 hour), with full address and contact details and a description of the damage including the date and time of when the damage occurred if known.

What happens next

- Upon notification of a suspected strike, the Airside Operations Manager (AOM) will arrange to visit the property as soon as operationally practicable. Details of the damage will be recorded together with digital photographs. No statement of liability will be made, however, in circumstances where the building is considered unsafe or appreciable additional damage may result due to weather, the AOM may authorise a temporary repair.
- Once collated, the information will be sent via e-mail, to an appointed independent Vortex Assessor.
- An assessment will be made by the Vortex Assessor who will decide if the damage should be the subject of a more thorough examination and will, if required, arrange to visit the property to inspect.
- The Vortex Assessor will advise the AOM of the outcome of the assessment, and if the damage is verified as a vortex strike, the AOM will arrange for the repair work to be undertaken.
- A comprehensive report detailing any work undertaken and the existing condition of the roof/area affected will be retained by the airport.