Aviation Safety Investigation Report 199900733

Airbus A320

22 February 1999

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number:	199900733	Occurrence Type:	Incident		
Location:	56km N Rockhampton, VOR				
State:	QLD	Inv Category:	4		
Date:	Monday 22 February 1999				
Time:	1715 hours	Time Zone	EST		
Highest Injury Level:	None				
A * 64	A				
Aircraft	Airbus				
Manufacturer:					
Aircraft Model:	A320-211				
Aircraft Registration:	VH-HYC			Serial Number:	024
Type of Operation:	Air Transport Domestic H Scheduled	High Capacity Passer	ıger		
Damage to Aircraft:	Nil				
Departure Point:	Townsville Qld				
Departure Time:	1630 EST				
Destination:	Brisbane Qld				

Approved for Release: Tuesday, July 20, 1999

About 45 minutes after departure, the crew of the Airbus A320 noticed a burning smell in the cockpit and cabin. This was followed by the activation of the `AIR ENG2 BLEED FAULT', `NUMBER 2 PACK FAULT', `LAVATORY SMOKE' and `AVIONICS SMOKE' warnings. At the same time, the Number 1 airconditioning pack began to cycle uncontrollably to an overtemperature of 250 degrees Celsius.

The crew commenced an immediate descent to flight level 210 and notified air traffic control. The crew observed that, after selecting the `BLOWER' and `EXTRACT' fans, the avionics smoke warning cleared. The `AIR BLEED 2' fault procedures were then carried out, but the crew was unable to stabilise the No. 1 airconditioning pack. After selecting the `CROSSBLEED' valve to `OFF', the No. 1 airconditioning pack stabilised and the outlet temperature reduced to acceptable values. The flight then proceeded using the No. 1 airconditioning pack.

The investigation revealed severe cracking in the air bleed duct assembly aft of the pre-cooler at the Temperature Limitation Thermostat (TLT) sensor-mounting boss for the No. 2 engine.

The TLT duct and sensor were replaced. The failure was the subject of a major defect report (MDR) submission to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.