



Glasdon Focus On

# Winter Safety Management For

BRITISH AIRWAYS

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## Problem Identified

Winter maintenance is a priority for British Airways, and they have recently extended their winter safety strategy at the busy Heathrow International airport. British Airways use 100 stands at Heathrow airport, mainly being fed by Terminals 1, 3 and 4, and in addition to these they have two maintenance bases with a further 30 stands. Baggage handlers, re-fuelers and many other airport staff work underneath the aircraft during its time in the stand, making safety during winter weather paramount in these locations. However, the BAA (Heathrow's operator) found that it was very difficult to spread de-icer under the aircraft using the existing equipment.

## Solution

British Airways decided that a manual gritting machine was needed, which staff at Heathrow Airport could use beneath the aircraft. The Glasdon Cruiser Turbocast 300™ was demonstrated, and this was selected as the most effective gritting solution. The slim design of the Cruiser Turbocast 300 means that it can be easily manoeuvred around the airport and underneath the planes. This manual broadcast gritting machine was suitable for use with the special "Clearway type 6" salt which British Airways use. The Cruiser Turbocast 300 has a wide spreading action with controlled settings, allowing a large area to be covered quickly and accurately with minimum effort. A total of thirty-six Cruiser Turbocast 300 grit/salt spreaders were purchased.

## Resulting Benefits

The use of the Cruiser Turbocast 300 has significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of British Airways' winter safety strategy, providing a safer environment for staff. The use of Cruiser Turbocast 300 has saved time and resulted in cost savings. An aeroplane can now be turned around whatever the weather and as the stand is free from snow and ice, the aircraft tug can "push back" the aircraft unhampered by severe winter conditions.

## What the Customer Says

**Steve Edwards, Manager Aircraft External Appearance LHR at Heathrow Airport said:**

**“The Cruiser Turbocast 300 has enabled us to provide a much safer working environment for our staff with a faster turnaround time. We have also been able to use more areas of the airport that were inaccessible in the past due to ice and snow.”**

We are grateful to British Airways for the kind help given in the production of this case study.

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**Glasdon®**

Glasdon U.K. Limited  
Industrial and Commercial Division  
Preston New Road  
BLACKPOOL  
Lancashire  
FY4 4UL

Tel: (01253) 600414  
Fax: (01253) 792558  
e-mail: ic@glasdon-uk.co.uk  
web: www.glasdon.com

