



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Atlantic Ocean, AO	Accident Number:	IAD02LA039
Date & Time:	04/01/2002, 2005 EST	Registration:	G-BNLS
Aircraft:	Boeing 747-400	Injuries:	1 Serious, 213 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 129: Foreign		

Analysis

About 20 minutes after departure, the airplane encountered "moderate turbulence" while climbing through Flight Level (FL) 350. During the turbulence encounter, a passenger was returning to her seat when she fell and broke her right ankle. The flight crew returned to the airport, and the airplane landed without further incident. Turbulence was not forecast for the route of flight, and the seat belt sign was illuminated for the entire flight.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The airplane's encounter with turbulence, while climbing to an assigned altitude.

Findings

Occurrence #1: MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER
Phase of Operation: CLIMB

Findings
1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	48
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:	13200 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3500 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Co-Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	35
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:	8000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 4000 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Boeing	Registration:	G-BNLS
Model/Series:	747-400	Engines:	4 Turbo Jet
Operator:	BRITISH AIRWAYS	Engine Manufacturer:	Rolls-Royce
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Foreign Air Carrier (129)	Engine Model/Series:	RB211-524H
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 129: Foreign		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BHB, 83 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4300 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / , 230°
Temperature:	5°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Boston, MA (BOS)	Destination:	London (LHR)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	17 None	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 196 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	42.572500, -70.718611		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jill M Andrews	Adopted Date:	08/26/2003
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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