

Safety Recommendation Number :	8 of 2002
AAIU Event Reference :	2002-0005
Date of Publication of Safety Recommendation :	25/02/2002

Safety Recommendation:

The Irish Aviation Authority should ensure that airports in the State, review the adequacy of their procedures and equipment for the disembarkation of passengers and crew from an aircraft, which departs the paved surface and is unable, for any reason, to use the emergency evacuation slides or airstairs. (Issued an interim safety recommendation)

Response:

Aer Rianta informed the AAIU by letter of 27 March 2002: "On the day, the most expeditious way for the operator and handling agent to deplane their passengers would have been the use of the chutes but this was precluded due to high winds. In the circumstances, Aer Rianta provided and laid a temporary access roadway with all possible speed in the prevailing conditions. Nonetheless, as with any incident, equipment and procedures are reviewed to assess what changes might be beneficial from safety and comfort viewpoints in the future."

The IAA informed the AAIU on 24 April 2002 that: "The Authority has also researched the second recommendation, with which it objectively agrees, but finds that it falls within the scope of facilitation at airports rather than under a safety remit. As such the Authority is in a position only to recommend compliance by aerodrome operators, which it will do. It should be pointed out that crash rescue vehicles at aerodromes are required to carry access ladders to cater for a situation where an evacuation slide fails to deploy in the event of an emergency evacuation. The Authority will verify that such equipment is indeed available at airports under its licensing remit."

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