

Air Pilots - Cabin Air Statement

The cabin air supply on almost all large commercial aircraft is provided using engine bleed air systems. Fume events – abnormal odours, smoke, haze or fumes in the cabin – may arise from various internal or external sources, and some are due to contamination of the bleed air supply, for example as a result of a failure of an oil seal in the engine. In recent years concerns have been expressed about possible adverse health effects of exposure to contaminants in cabin air.

The Honourable Company of Air Pilots acknowledges that some individuals from the industry are suffering from significant symptoms which they attribute to exposure to cabin air contaminants; however, the Company considers that further scientific studies would be required to prove, to the satisfaction of aviation medical, occupational medical, epidemiological and legal specialists, a causative link between airliner cabin air and the symptoms described.

In the meantime, the Company supports the advice and information provided on the CAA website at: <http://www.caa.co.uk/Passengers/Before-you-fly/Am-I-fit-to-fly/Guidance-for-health-professionals/Aircraft-fume-events/>