

COMISIÓN DE INVESTIGACIÓN DE ACCIDENTES E INCIDENTES DE AVIACIÓN CIVIL

# Interim Statement IN-004/2013

Incident involving an Airbus A-340-313 aircraft, registration CC-CQE operated by LAN Airlines, on 6 February 2013 at the Madrid-Barajas airport (Madrid, Spain).



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# Important notice

This document constitutes the interim statement envisioned in Article 16.7 of Regulation (EU) no. 996/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as well as in paragraph 6.6 of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. The statement includes the details of the progress of the investigation and the most important operational safety issues revealed to date. The information provided herein is subject to change as the investigation proceeds.

Pursuant to the contents of Regulation (EU) no. 96/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, the investigation is purely technical in nature and is not intended to determine or apportion blame or liability. The investigation is being conducted without necessarily resorting to evidentiary procedures and for the sole purpose of preventing future accidents.

Consequently, the use of this information for any purpose other than to prevent future accidents may result in faulty conclusions or interpretations.

# **Abbreviations**

AC Air Conditioning
ACC Area Control Center
ACM Air Cycle Machine
APU Auxiliary Power Unit

APTL (A) Airline Transport Pilot License (Airplane)

BEA French accident investigation authority (Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la Sécurité

de l'Aviation civile)

CPL (A) Commercial Pilot License (Airplane)

ECAM Electronic Centralized Aircraft Monitoring
EDDF ICAO code for Frankfurt airport (Germany)

LEMD ICAO code for Madrid airport (Spain)

MEL Minimum Equipment List
MSN Manufacturer Serial Number

SCEL ICAO code for Santiago airport (Chile)

UTC Universal Time Coordinated

OCATION	DATA	SUMMARY						
Date and time	Wednesday, 6 February 2013 at 23:40 <sup>1</sup>							
Site	Madrid-Barajas airport (Madrid, Spain)							
AIRCRAFT								
Registration	CC-CQE							
Type and model	AIRBUS A-340-313							
Operator	LAN Airlines							
Engines								
Type and model	CFMI CFM56-5C4							
Number	4							
CREW	Captain 1	Captain 2	First offic	er 1	First officer 1			
Age	64	41	37		43			
License	ATPL(A)	ATPL(A)	CPL(A)		CPL(A)			
Total flight hours	18986,90	11328,29	4461,09		3283,02			
Flight hours on the type	9279,55	4866,67	2542,59		877,74			
NJURIES	Fatal	Se	rious	Mir	nor / None			
Crew				14				
Passengers				244				
Third persons								
DAMAGE		1						
Aircraft	None	None						
Third parties	None							
FLIGHT DATA								
Operation	Commercial air	Commercial air transport - Scheduled - International - Passenger						
Phase of flight	Climb							
REPORT								
Date of approval	27 January 2014	1						

 $<sup>^{\</sup>mbox{\tiny 1}}$  All times in this report are in UTC. To calculate local time, add one hour to UTC.

#### 1. INCIDENT INFORMATION

The Airbus A-340-313 aircraft, registration CC-CQE, was on flight LAN-705 from the Frankfurt airport (EDDF) in Germany to the Santiago airport in Chile (SCEL), with a stopover in Madrid-Barajas (LEMD). After stopping in Madrid, it took off from the Barajas airport at 23:08 from runway 36L.

While climbing through 27,000 feet, the flight crew noticed a smell similar to that of tear gas. Quickly afterwards smoke appeared on the flight deck. The crew donned their oxygen masks, declared an emergency and requested to return immediately to LEMD at 23:40. They alerted the cabin crew, who confirmed the presence of smoke in the front of the cabin, and the relief crew. The local alert was activated at the airport at 23:50.

The aircraft started to descend and, with the engines at flight idle, the ECAM (Electronic Central Aircraft Monitoring) screen showed the message "AIR PACK 1 REGULATOR FAULT. PACK 1 IN BYPASS MODE". The smoke cleared quickly, and the crew notified the Madrid Area Control Center (ACC) that the situation was under control and that they were preparing to land with excess weight.

The airplane landed normally at 00:18 on the next day (7 February 2013) via runway 32R and taxied to parking followed by the firefighters, who were there to check the landing gear.

Once the airplane was parked and it was verified that there were no problems preventing disembarking, the passengers were deplaned using the normal procedure. The local alarm at the airport was deactivated at 00:46.

The aircraft crew were properly trained, experienced and medically fit, and they had valid and in force licenses, ratings and medical certificates.

The aircraft, with serial number (MSN) 0429, had valid and in force Airworthiness and Registration Certificates, and it had been maintained in accordance with the Approved Maintenance Program.

Once on the ground, maintenance personnel carried out the checks specified for troubleshooting the recorded fault (Pack 1 Air Cycle Machine Fault) and cleaned the APU bleed air duct elbow. They also did an operational check of the no. 2 pack with the engines and the APU, the results of which were satisfactory. After performing these tests, they locked the AC no. 1 pack flow control valve in place and deferred correcting the fault as per the Minimum Equipment List (MEL). A few days later, the fault was corrected by replacing the ACM, the temperature control valve and the control system for the AC no. 1 pack.

## 2. CONDUCT OF THE INVESTIGATION

The investigation is being conducted with the participation of the accident investigation boards of Chile (Sección de Investigación de Accidentes de la Dirección General de Aeronáutica Civil) and France (BEA – Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la Sécurité de l'Aviation Civile), of the manufacturer (Airbus) and of the operator (LAN Airlines).

## 3. PROGRESS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The investigation is proceeding along the lines of evaluating the relationship between the damage found with the ACM removed and what happened during the flight, and the crew's actions in response to the event. Once completed, a final report on the incident will be published.