# AOG Technics director charged over counterfeit aircraft parts scandal affecting global airlines



Jose Alejandro Zamora Yrala, the director of AOG Technics, faces serious fraud charges connected to the alleged supply of counterfeit aircraft parts to major airlines around the globe. The case, now under the purview of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), has raised alarming concerns about aviation safety and regulatory oversight. Since its establishment in 2015, AOG Technics has provided parts for critical components, notably the CFM56 engine, a widely used powerplant in both Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 aircraft.

The SFO's investigation follows the grounding of numerous planes, both in the UK and internationally, after alerts issued by the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the United States' Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). These alerts urged airlines and maintenance firms to undertake thorough checks of parts supplied by AOG Technics. Nick Ephgrave, director of the SFO, highlighted the rapid progression of their investigation, commenting, "Today's charges are the outcome of a focused and fast-paced investigation," emphasizing the significant disruption these counterfeit parts have caused within the aviation industry.

Between 2019 and 2023, allegations emerged that AOG Technics falsified documentation regarding the origin, status, or condition of thousands of aircraft parts. The implications of these actions have profoundly affected multiple airlines, including major players such as Ryanair, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and United Airlines. The fraudulent parts were discovered during routine checks, prompting immediate reactions and preventive measures from aviation authorities.

Safety concerns surrounding counterfeit parts are not new within the aviation industry. Past incidents have underscored the vulnerabilities in the supply chain, where unapproved components enter the mix, often undetected until they are already in use. The FAA's issuance of an Unapproved Parts Notification (UPN) regarding a specific bushing supplied by AOG Technics illustrates the gravity of the situation. The FAA prompted operators to remove and quarantine these bushings from their inventories pending further investigations, echoing broader worries about the safety standards across the industry.

Additionally, AOG Technics is reportedly facing legal action from CFM International, the manufacturer of the CFM56 engine, over the alleged use of counterfeit parts designed for their products. Such developments indicate not only the ethical and legal ramifications for the company but also highlight the urgent need for reform and oversight in the sector to protect passenger safety.

The SFO's investigation will continue to unfold, with Zamora Yrala due at Westminster Magistrates’ Court, facing charges of fraudulent trading. As the authorities work to fully assess the scale of AOG Technics' operations, regulators worldwide are under increasing pressure to ensure that stringent checks are implemented in the supply chain.

In the wake of this scandal, regulators are required to revisit their protocols thoroughly and enhance collaborative measures with international partners, ensuring systemic improvements in aviation safety. As the aviation community braces for revelations about the extent of this scandal, the repercussions on public trust and regulatory practices loom large, necessitating urgent action to restore confidence in aviation safety.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/aog-technics-arrest-fake-plane-parts-jose-yrala-b2759405.html), [[4]](https://apnews.com/article/fake-aircraft-parts-arrest-london-7352d8bda78b919e7e6fa0c264937e22)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/aog-technics-arrest-fake-plane-parts-jose-yrala-b2759405.html), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67641076), [[5]](https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/faa-aog-technics-update-airworthiness-directive)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/aog-technics-parts-falsified-faa), [[6]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2023/12/06/sfo-arrests-man-fake-aircraft-engine-parts-ryanair-scandal/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67641076), [[6]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2023/12/06/sfo-arrests-man-fake-aircraft-engine-parts-ryanair-scandal/), [[7]](https://www.businessinsider.com/scammer-selling-fake-airline-engine-parts-delta-united-arrested-investigation-2023-12)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/aog-technics-arrest-fake-plane-parts-jose-yrala-b2759405.html), [[4]](https://apnews.com/article/fake-aircraft-parts-arrest-london-7352d8bda78b919e7e6fa0c264937e22), [[5]](https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/faa-aog-technics-update-airworthiness-directive)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/aog-technics-arrest-fake-plane-parts-jose-yrala-b2759405.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67641076> - The UK's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has initiated a criminal investigation into AOG Technics, a London-based aircraft parts supplier accused of supplying counterfeit parts to airlines worldwide. The SFO conducted a raid and made an arrest in connection with the investigation. Previously, aviation authorities in the UK, US, and Europe had issued alerts to firms to verify parts supplied by AOG Technics, urging them to trace the provenance of parts directly and indirectly supplied by the firm. AOG Technics has been supplying parts for the CFM56 engine, the world's best-selling passenger aircraft engine, since 2015 to several major airlines globally, including Ryanair, American Airlines, United Airlines, and Delta. The SFO's director, Nick Ephgrave, stated that the investigation deals with 'very serious allegations of fraud,' with 'potentially far-reaching consequences.'
3. <https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/aog-technics-parts-falsified-faa> - The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued an Unapproved Parts Notification (UPN) regarding a bushing part supplied by AOG Technics, a UK-based company accused of distributing counterfeit aircraft parts. The FAA stated that the associated documents for these parts were falsified. The FAA recommended that if these bushings are installed or found in existing aircraft parts inventories, they should be removed and quarantined until a determination can be made regarding their eligibility for installation. AOG Technics supplied parts for CFM56 engines, used in older-generation Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 planes. The CFM56 engine, made by CFM International, a joint venture of General Electric and Safran SA, is the world’s best-selling aircraft engine. The FAA's notification highlights the serious safety concerns associated with unapproved parts entering the aviation supply chain.
4. <https://apnews.com/article/fake-aircraft-parts-arrest-london-7352d8bda78b919e7e6fa0c264937e22> - Authorities in London have arrested an individual as part of an investigation into the sale of unapproved aircraft parts that have been found in the fleets of several major airlines. The UK's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) announced the arrest and seizure of material during a raid in London. The SFO launched a new investigation into fraud at London-based AOG Technics Ltd., which has supplied aircraft businesses with parts for popular jet engines produced by CFM International. Earlier this year, aviation authorities in Europe, the UK, and the United States warned businesses about the AOG parts and asked them to check the origin of parts supplied by AOG. Suspected unapproved engine parts have been found in airlines including Ryanair, TAP Air Portugal, Virgin Australia, and several U.S. carriers such as American, United, Delta, and Southwest. The use of counterfeit or unapproved parts has been a longstanding issue in the aviation industry, with authorities attributing it to supplier fraud and poor oversight by regulators.
5. <https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/faa-aog-technics-update-airworthiness-directive> - The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has confirmed that no airworthiness directives (AD) are currently needed regarding parts supplied by British firm AOG Technics. In a special airworthiness information bulletin issued by the FAA, the agency stated that 'based on the parts investigated to date,' the 'airworthiness concern is not an unsafe condition that would warrant airworthiness directive.' Airworthiness directives are issued by aviation safety regulators worldwide when the safety of an aircraft is compromised. The FAA's update indicates that, at this time, the agency does not consider the parts supplied by AOG Technics to pose an immediate safety risk that would necessitate an airworthiness directive. However, the investigation into AOG Technics is ongoing, and the agency may change its assessment in the future.
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2023/12/06/sfo-arrests-man-fake-aircraft-engine-parts-ryanair-scandal/> - Fraud squad investigators have arrested an individual in connection with a company accused of supplying fake aeroplane parts to airlines worldwide. The man was being questioned after his home was searched by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and the National Crime Agency (NCA). London-based AOG Technics has supplied parts to airlines globally but has been accused of selling products using fake safety documents. In some cases, this has led to aircraft being grounded, prompting carriers and manufacturers to assess whether they are affected. Ryanair is among those that have discovered fake parts and blamed the British company, while U.S. carriers Delta Air Lines, American Airlines, and Southwest Airlines have also found suspect components in their planes. AOG Technics is also facing legal action by American manufacturer CFM International, after the company’s CFM56 – the world’s best-selling jet engine – was said to have been affected.
7. <https://www.businessinsider.com/scammer-selling-fake-airline-engine-parts-delta-united-arrested-investigation-2023-12> - Fraud investigators have arrested a suspect in the fake engine parts scandal that impacted airlines like United and Delta. Regulators say AOG Technics used false documentation to supply engine parts of an unknown origin. American, Delta, and United are among the airlines who've found parts from the company in their engines. The UK's Serious Fraud Office arrested an individual and seized material on Wednesday. The person in custody is AOG Technics' founder and director, Jose Alejandro Zamora Yrala. AOG Technics could not be reached for comment. This investigation deals with very serious allegations of fraud involving the supply of aircraft parts, the consequences of which are potentially far-reaching, said Nick Ephgrave, the SFO director. We are determined to establish the facts as swiftly as possible, he added. The SFO said it raided the Greater London home of the suspect and seized material as part of its investigation. Aviation authorities in the US, UK, and European Union all issued alerts about AOG Technics earlier this year. The EU's Aviation Safety Agency said that it suspected the company used false documentation for engine parts of an unknown origin. It left repair shops and airlines scouring their records to find references to AOG Technics. All three of the major US airlines —Delta, United, and American — are among those who have found parts supplied by AOG Technics in their engines. Some airlines in the US and UK were forced to ground planes because of the scandal. The Independent previously reported that at least 100 planes were grounded. Last week, Ryanair's CEO told Bloomberg that it too had discovered suspect parts during scheduled maintenance checks. Southwest was the first major carrier to disclose that it had found parts from AOG Technics in its engines, back in September. In an abundance of caution, we made an immediate decision to promptly replace those parts on that single engine, a spokesperson previously told BI. The faulty parts were used for CFM56 engines, which power older-generation Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 jets. Bloomberg reports that the CFM56 is by far the most frequently flown engine, with an aircraft powered by it taking off every two seconds around the world.