# AOG Technics director charged with global counterfeit aircraft parts fraud



Jose Alejandro Zamora Yrala, the director of AOG Technics, is facing significant fraud charges amid allegations that his company supplied counterfeit aircraft parts to airlines around the world. The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has accused Zamora Yrala of defrauding numerous clients, including airlines and maintenance firms, over a period during which the integrity of aviation safety was severely compromised.

From 2019 to 2023, AOG Technics reportedly engaged in the falsification of crucial documentation concerning the origin and condition of various aircraft parts. The repercussions of these actions were widespread; safety alerts issued by the UK’s Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the United States' Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) resulted in planes being grounded not only in the UK but globally. This highlighted a grave concern over the safety of the aviation supply chain, affecting major airlines such as Ryanair, American Airlines, and Delta Air Lines, among others.

Nick Ephgrave, director of the SFO, emphasised the seriousness of the situation, noting, “Planes were grounded, and significant disruption was caused; today’s charges are the outcome of a focused and fast-paced investigation.” The investigation, which has unfolded rapidly over 19 months, underscores the urgency and complexity involved in tracing the flow of counterfeit parts through an industry already beset by vulnerabilities.

The implications of the AOG Technics case have reverberated throughout the aviation sector, prompting prominent industry players to advocate for measures to prevent such occurrences in the future. In an initiative announced in October 2024, the Aviation Supply Chain Integrity Coalition—comprised of major aerospace companies including Airbus, Boeing, and General Electric—called for rigorous steps to strengthen vendor accreditation, digitise documentation, and improve the traceability of parts in the supply chain. This coalition reflects a broader recognition that the industry must come together to restore trust and integrity following the AOG scandal.

Safety regulators have been vigilant in their responses. The FAA issued notifications regarding unapproved parts supplied by AOG Technics that were found to lack proper production approvals. In one instance, a specific bushing part was identified; the FAA recommended its removal from service until further evaluations could ascertain its eligibility for installation. Despite an ongoing investigation, the FAA reiterated in December 2023 that, at that time, no airworthiness directives were warranted concerning AOG's parts. Nevertheless, they cautioned that the situation could evolve as findings progressed.

As this case develops, it prompts a critical examination of current aviation safety standards and the efficacy of regulatory measures in place to protect against the threats posed by counterfeit parts. The continuing scrutiny from both regulators and the aviation community aims to ensure that trust is restored, and that actions are taken to safeguard the future of the industry.

The fate of Zamora Yrala and AOG Technics will soon be determined in Westminster Magistrates’ Court, where he faces charges of fraudulent trading. The outcome of this case could set a significant precedent in the fight against fraud within the aviation sector and bring necessary attention to the vulnerabilities that allow counterfeit parts to infiltrate critical systems.

## 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://www.aerotime.aero/articles/aog-technics-parts-falsified-faa)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/aog-technics-arrest-fake-plane-parts-jose-yrala-b2759405.html), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/aviation-industry-urges-steps-prevent-unapproved-parts-airplane-use-2024-10-09/), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/aerospace-giants-form-coalition-stop-unauthorized-parts-entering-supply-chain-2024-02-22/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/faa-expands-warning-to-airlines-over-forged-jet-parts-documents), [[6]](https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/faa-issues-aog-technics-update-airworthiness-directive), [[7]](https://www.aviacionline.com/british-supplier-aog-technics-under-fire-for-distributing-fake-jet-engine-parts)

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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.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/aviation-industry-urges-steps-prevent-unapproved-parts-airplane-use-2024-10-09/> - In October 2024, the Aviation Supply Chain Integrity Coalition, comprising major aerospace companies and airlines, called for measures to prevent unapproved parts from entering the aviation supply chain. This initiative followed revelations that AOG Technics had sold thousands of engine components with forged documentation, leading to a global investigation and the grounding of aircraft. The coalition's recommendations include strengthening vendor accreditation, digitising documentation, and improving part traceability to enhance supply chain integrity.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/aerospace-giants-form-coalition-stop-unauthorized-parts-entering-supply-chain-2024-02-22/> - In February 2024, leading aerospace companies, including Airbus, Boeing, and GE Aerospace, formed the Aviation Supply Chain Integrity Coalition to prevent unauthorized parts from infiltrating the global supply chain. This move was prompted by the discovery that AOG Technics had sold thousands of engine components with forged documentation. The coalition aims to develop lasting solutions to improve the overall integrity of the aviation supply chain.
4. <https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/aog-technics-parts-falsified-faa> - In September 2023, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued an Unapproved Parts Notification regarding a bushing part supplied by AOG Technics without FAA production approval. The FAA stated that associated documents were falsified and recommended that these parts be removed and quarantined to prevent installation until their eligibility could be determined.
5. <https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/faa-expands-warning-to-airlines-over-forged-jet-parts-documents> - In December 2023, the FAA expanded its warning to airlines over forged jet parts documents, confirming that parts from other manufacturers had been handled by AOG Technics. The agency did not consider the issue to be an 'unsafe condition' warranting a rule requiring repairs but stated that its investigation was ongoing and may change that assessment in the future.
6. <https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/faa-issues-aog-technics-update-airworthiness-directive> - In December 2023, the FAA confirmed that no airworthiness directives were currently needed regarding parts supplied by AOG Technics. The agency stated that, based on the parts investigated to date, the airworthiness concern was not an unsafe condition that would warrant an airworthiness directive. The investigation into AOG Technics was still ongoing, and the agency may change its assessment in the future.
7. <https://www.aviacionline.com/british-supplier-aog-technics-under-fire-for-distributing-fake-jet-engine-parts> - In September 2023, European aviation regulators discovered that AOG Technics Ltd., a London-based company, supplied fake parts for jet engines powering many older-generation Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 planes. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) issued a Suspected Unapproved Parts (SUP) notification to alert owners, operators, maintenance organisations, and distributors of suspected unapproved parts distributed by AOG Technics.