

British Airways becomes first airline to maintain its own A380 evacuation slides

British Airways has become the first airline in the world to be given approval to overhaul its own A380 evacuation slides.

British Airways Interiors Engineering in Blackwood, South Wales will now overhaul slides for the airline's eight A380s. Overhaul services will include inflation systems checks, component repairs and replacements, as well as slide testing and repacking. The British Airways Interiors team of technicians will also certify the slides for up to three years.

To achieve this new qualification British Airways' technicians underwent a thorough training programme at the slide maintenance manufacturer, UTC Aerospace Systems' training and maintenance facility in Phoenix, Arizona. A team of 10 British Airways technicians are already trained, with plans for more to follow.

British Airways' head of Interiors Engineering, Ceri Powell, said: "We are delighted to be the first airline to have the capability for maintaining A380 slides.

"We have made significant investment in training, tools and equipment to become the only airline to be able to do this work and we look forward to supporting the British Airways fleet of A380 aircraft."

British Airways was the first UK airline to fly the A380. The airline has ordered a total of 12 A380 aircraft.

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December 16, 2014

Notes to editors:

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