

TOXIC CABIN AIR FACT SHEET



What does Toxic Cabin Air cause?

Toxic Cabin Air is alleged to cause illnesses, and in some circumstances death, of pilots and cabin crew who have been exposed to contaminated cabin air.

How would aircraft cabin air become contaminated?

Commercial aircraft operate systems where cabin air is taken via compression intake from the jet engines. This process is known as “bleed air”. The design process of bleed air can be susceptible to allowing cabin air to be contaminated with neurotoxins contained in the engine oils and other chemicals.

When this occurs due to contaminated air being experienced either by the presence of visible fumes or by the smell of unpleasant odour, it is known as a “fume event”. You may or may not always be aware that it is happening. In circumstances where you recognise the signs, it is critical that you report it immediately.

How do I know if I have been exposed to a fume event?

It can be difficult to ascertain when cabin air has been contaminated. In some situations it can be detected by smell and may also be visible as a haze or mist within the cabin.

What do I need to do in order to register a fume event?

Unite is compiling a list of fume events, as there is concern that historically fume events have been under reported.

If you are involved in a fume event on board an aircraft, please complete and submit the Unite fume event register, which can be found at www.unitetheunion.org/cabinair

Will I suffer illness as a result of being exposed to a fume event?

Not everyone will suffer illness after being exposed to a fume event. Symptoms which can arise include headaches, fatigue, blurred vision, nausea and memory loss.

If I have suffered significant symptoms, what do I need to do to receive legal advice regarding a potential personal injury claim?

Unite has put in place a specialist team of solicitors to advise members who may have suffered symptoms associated with exposure to toxic cabin air.

To receive legal advice regarding a personal injury claim, you should contact **03330 146 569**

