

Aerodrome Safety Notice

Foreign Object Debris

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Issued by: Operations

It is the responsibility of all employers to ensure that relevant Airport Notices are brought to the attention of their staff. However individuals remain responsible for their own actions and those who are in any doubt should consult their supervisor or manager.

INTRODUCTION

In aviation, **Foreign Object Debris** (FOD) is any article or substance, alien to an aircraft or system, which could potentially cause damage.

Brighton City Airport Ltd is responsible for taking adequate measures to ensure the safety of aircraft, vehicles and persons using the aprons. A fundamental element of the safety effort is to maintain the manoeuvring areas and aprons in a clean condition, free from FOD (Foreign object Debris) and obstructions or other hazardous materials. Foreign objects are regularly being deposited on the movement area and it is essential that all airport personnel understand the dangers that such objects represent.

- Foreign objects may be ingested into aircraft engines causing damage leading to engine failure, which is especially critical if it occurs in flight, particularly if it occurs during the take-off phase. At best, such damage leads directly to premature engine removal and replacement.
- In addition, damage caused by foreign objects can occur to tyres and undercarriages, control systems and other parts of the airframe. All such damage could lead to in-flight failures and inevitably requires expensive repairs to be made.

All foreign objects are a threat to aircraft safety.

Every individual operator and pilot has a responsibility to ensure that the risk of damage to aircraft from FOD is minimised.

Any item of FOD found by an aerodrome staff member in the course of their work should be removed and placed in a suitable container or bin provided. An item of FOD seen in an area that a staff member is not authorised to enter should be brought to the attention of ATC who will dispatch a member of the Operations team to collect.

- All operators should introduce staff procedures that reflect these responsibilities. Foreign Object Debris (FOD) is a general term which applies to all loose objects which are a danger to the safety and integrity of an aircraft and which, therefore, must not be left in any area so as to constitute a hazard.
- The list of FOD items most frequently found on the apron is long and principally includes:- plastic and paper bags/sheets, paper and cloth rags, empty oil and hydraulic fluid cans, empty soft drink cans, nuts and bolts, tying wire and cable ties, tools and equipment, metal cutlery, tie downs and miscellaneous items of rubbish.
- The presence of FOD is due mainly to the carelessness of staff and their lack of understanding of the consequences.

GENERAL RULES & RESPONSIBILITIES

No FOD is to be deposited or left on any part of the movement area or any apron. It is the direct responsibility of engineering operatives/contractors and all other users of the aerodrome to ensure that it is maintained in as safe and clean a condition as possible and that all FOD is removed as soon as it is found.

Great care must be exercised by all those working on the apron, particularly those working on aircraft, to ensure that no FOD is left exposed or left behind from their operation.

APRONS AREAS

After completing any task including pre-flight checks and or servicing of an aircraft (prior permission is required) the stand areas must be left clean and tidy.

- FOD must be removed or placed in the containers provided.
- All apron equipment which could be blown away must be secured to some fixed object, or stored in a safe place not exposed to wind or aircraft engine blast effect.

Vehicles on the Movement Area

Before proceeding from one area of the airport to another via a route that involves crossing the movement area;

- All vehicles must be carefully inspected to ensure that anything that is carried in or on the vehicle is secured, that all doors and tail or side boards are closed and securely locked shut and that no parts of the vehicle or trailer are loose and likely to become detached.

SPILLAGES

Operators at BCAL should maintain cleaning equipment and have procedures in place with personal available for the immediate clean-up of all spillages associated with their business.

- All spillages of over 20 litres of Avgas or Jet A1 fuel must be reported immediately to the RFFS on 01273 467395 and or ATC on 01273 467377, for their action and attendance.
- The responsibility of any spillage in cost and clear up required thereafter of any product or area will remain the responsibility of the operator and not that of Brighton City Airport.

REMOVAL OF APRON HAZARDS

The parking or abandonment of unserviceable ground equipment or vehicles, contractor's materials and miscellaneous objects on the aprons constitutes a safety hazard and contributes to apron congestion. If unserviceable equipment, vehicles, contractors' materials or other miscellaneous objects (hereinafter referred to as 'the Object') are found to be creating an obstruction or a hazard they will be marked with a notice. The wording on the notice will state that Brighton City Airport Ltd requires the offending object to be removed from the airside area within 72 hours of the date and time of fixing the notice and that any questions arising from the notice are to be directed to the Operations Manager, operations@flybrighton.com.

If an offending object is not removed within the notified period it will be removed to a suitable area and be retained for a period of four weeks. If the owner of the object does not come forward or cannot be traced it will be disposed of, without prejudice, after the expiry of the holding period.

- If an offending object is considered to be an immediate hazard it will be removed immediately and without prior notice. Brighton City Airport Ltd accepts no responsibility for any damage to the object before, during or after removal.

Any questions relating to this safety instruction should in the first instance be addressed to the Operations Team on 01273 467395.

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