

Appendix 9 – F.O.D Policy

All personnel at Merlin Flex Ltd need to have a clear understanding and awareness of the term

F.O.D. Foreign Object Debris

Foreign Object Debris (F.O.D) is a substance, debris or article alien to the item, system or vehicle which would potentially cause damage.

Examples of are

- In an aviation or similar environment, FOD could create a hazard to aircraft, equipment, cargo, personnel or anything else of value.
- In a manufacturing or similar environment, FOD could contaminate the product or otherwise undermine quality control standards, or injure personnel. e.g. inclusions in PCB's.

Foreign Object Damage is any damage attributed to a foreign object that can be expressed in physical or economic terms that may or may not degrade the products required safety and /or performance characteristics.

Typically, FOD is an aviation term used to describe on or around aircraft or damage done to an aircraft.

Anything that can find its way into an aircraft engine or flight control mechanisms is a recipe for foreign object damage.

Merlin Flex normally associates FOD as 'inclusions' in the Flex circuits, but FOD can also affect the Assembly Process and Packing.

As Merlin Flex are accredited to AS9100 Rev D the business Quality Management System has provisions for prevention, detection and removal of foreign objects.

- Sec 8.1 – Operational planning and control - determining the requirements for the products and services including prevention, detection, and removal of foreign objects.
- Sec 8.5.1 – Control of production and service provision
Sub section o) the provision for the prevention, detection, and removal of foreign objects.
- Section 8.5.4 - Preservation - the organisation shall preserve the outputs during production and service provision, to the extent necessary to ensure conformity to requirements.
Sub section b) prevention, detection, and removal of foreign objects.

This policy is deployed through our quality management system (QMS) that has been established, documented and implemented to fully conform to ISO 9001:2015 & BSEN9100:2018 (latest revision) and customer-specific, applicable law and regulatory requirements as they apply to our products services.

Signed:  Mark Merifield (Managing Director)

Date: 5th Sep 2024

Change History			
Change Number	Description of change(s)	Initial	Date
1	AS9100 rewrite.	SW	01/12/2015
2	Update and reformat of FOD Policy	SW	01/07/2021
3	Updated with digital signature & new logo	MM	06/07/2021
4	Reviewed & updated	MM	05/09/2024