

23 July 2026

ASGrOps_SA_088

V1.0

Safety Alert

Foreign Object Debris (FOD)

Introduction

The purpose of this Safety Alert is to highlight an increase in the number of FOD events that have occurred during 2026. From January 2026 to date, 101 events have been reported. The main investigation findings have identified the following causes:

- Loose nuts and bolts discovered on taxiways and runways.
- Poor housekeeping standards within vehicles, including the accumulation of paper, cups, and other waste materials, which have previously been identified as contributing factors in airfield events.
- Aircraft wheel chocks left on taxiways or inadequately secured on pushback tugs, leading to them becoming detached during operations and requiring subsequent recovery.

Safety Considerations

- Airside cleanliness and FOD prevention are everyone's responsibility.
- All airside users are responsible for maintaining a FOD-free environment and reporting spillages/contaminants to support airside cleanliness.
- Green FOD bins are located around the airside areas and at the head of each stand. These bins are for FOD disposal only and must not be used for general, catering, POL or hazardous waste. If a FOD bin is full or damaged, contact HAL Airfield Operations on 020 8745 6024.
- If an item of FOD is suspected of having come from an aircraft part, contact Airfield Operations immediately on 020 8745 6024. Do not touch or move the item until a member of Airfield Operations arrives, as it may be used as evidence in further investigations.
- All vehicles must be inspected to ensure that anything carried in or on the vehicle is secured and that all doors/trailers are secure. All vehicles must be maintained in a serviceable condition, and FOD must be disposed of correctly to prevent build-up.
- Please ensure aircraft wheel chocks are retrieved after use and securely stowed in the pushback tug following aircraft departure. Any wheel chock or other FOD identified on the manoeuvring area must be reported immediately to HAL Airfield Operations on 020 8745 6024.

For more information on FOD please refer to: [Airside Cleanliness FOD Management](#).

Any questions regarding this Safety Alert should be directed to AirsideInvestigations@heathrow.com.

Additional information, Operational Safety Instructions (OSIs) and Operational Advice Notices (OANs) can be found at heathrow.com/airside/useful-publications

Reference:

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