

Notice to Suppliers



Foreign Object Debris (FOD) event which caused disruption to Airbus

Originator: Lorraine West
Job Title: Quality Engineer
Business Unit: Controls, Civil Aerospace

NTS Number: 504
Issue: 1
Date: 23rd May 2020

For the attention of the Managing Director and Quality Manager

Dear Sir or Madam,

Scope/Applicability:

All suppliers of production engine components used in Civil and Defence Engines.

Introduction:

During pre-delivery testing a Trent engine took significantly longer to start than is permitted by the requirements. Subsequent investigation activities identified the cause to be foreign object debris (FOD) trapped in the metering valve profile of the hydro-mechanical unit (HMU). The investigation has identified the composition of the FOD but unfortunately not its source. The composition was a mixture of particles of silicon carbide, polyurethane and inorganic silicates.

The investigation strategy has therefore been to manage contamination risk following the “as low as reasonably practical” (ALARP) principles. In conjunction to the steps that Rolls-Royce has taken internally, this communication and your subsequent actions form part of this strategy.

The purpose of this NTS is to remind Rolls-Royce’s supply chain partners of the importance of operating a robust FOD prevention program by providing a “real world example” as context.

Note: The requirement to operate a FOD prevention programme in accordance with specification AS/EN/SJAC 9146:2017 is defined in SABRe Aerospace – Edition 3 Section 8.5.4, point F.

Action Required:

1. Communicate this event to your teams, reminding them of the importance of your FOD prevention activity.
2. Please review your business’s FOD prevention programme for robustness and ensure it meets or exceeds the requirements as called out by SABRe Aerospace – Edition 3.
3. Review substances used in your manufacturing processes and if any contain silicon carbide, polyurethane or inorganic silicates, please complete a “go look see” to identify any potential FOD improvement activities that can be included in your prevention program.

NTS Category:

Quality

Authorised by:

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