

Safety Alert

Scope: [Americas]
Activity: [All LOBs]
Issued on: [8/22/24]

Unauthorized use of FOD on Inoperative Locks.

Brief Description

Several hazard reports have been raised regarding the unauthorized use of Foreign Object Debris (FOD) on inoperative or defective locks within the inflight system. These reports highlight incidents where paper, string, or tape has been used to secure locks by holding them in position or raising latches with missing springs. Loading with defective locks poses significant safety risks.

The unauthorized use of FOD compromises the integrity of the locking mechanism, potentially leading to equipment failure and endangering personnel, passengers, and cargo. Continuous monitoring and strict adherence to safety protocols are essential to address and prevent these hazardous practices, ensuring a safe and secure working environment.

Mandatory Directive- Call for Action

Unserviceable Locks

- Inform a ground engineer if any lock(s) is / are unserviceable.
- If unserviceable or an engineer is unavailable, offload the planned unit and inform Load Control for reshuffling.
- Escalate the defect for management follow-up with the airline.

Foreign Object Debris (FOD)

- Remove any paper, string, tape, or debris found on or around locks. Before that, take pictures and report the occurrence.
- If an engineer suggests using FOD to hold up a lock, report to a supervisor and remove the FOD.

Unserviceable Inflight System (IFLS)

- Offload cargo units if an aircraft compartment has unserviceable IFLS.
- Update Load Control for reshuffling and a new load plan, if necessary.

IMPORTANT: Always take photos of any defects, unauthorized use of debris, and unserviceable IFLS and report the issue for proper documentation and follow-up, immediately.

