AVISTRATA
AVIATION BUSINESS PLATFORM

FOD Program

How to manage, control and report foreign object debris

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PREPARED FOR

Maintenance, line service, quality and safety teams

Repair stations, operators, FBOs and flight schools on Avistrata

FROM

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At a glance

Avistrata runs your whole FOD program in one place. You can schedule and record **FOD walks** of the ramp, hangar and run-up areas, and log every **finding** with a photo and location. A finding that may have damaged an aircraft **grounds it**. The system requires a **FOD check** before a work order closes or an engine run is signed off, and **counts rags, hardware and safety wire** out and back on each task card. The **FOD dashboard** shows trends. It all works on the website and in the iPhone and Android apps, with no signal needed on the phones.

1. Set up your areas and settings

Admins and quality managers do this once, on the website under **Quality** → **FOD**.

1. Open **Areas** and click **Add an area**. Name it (for example *Main ramp*), pick the kind and set how often it must be walked.
2. Repeat for each hangar, run-up pad, wash rack, shop or taxiway you are responsible for.
3. Open **Settings**. Set the FOD check **before a work order closes** and **before an engine or ground run** to Off, Optional or Required.
4. Add the emails that get overdue-walk and damage alerts. If you leave this empty, the organization's admins get them.

Setting	What it means
Off	No FOD check is asked for
Optional	The check is offered and can be skipped
Required	The work order can't be closed (or the run card signed off) until the check is recorded. The database enforces this, whichever screen or app is used.

Settings pass down to the client organizations below yours, unless they set their own.

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2. Do a FOD walk

On the phone: Admin app → **FBO** home → **FOD walks**. Areas that are overdue are shown first. **On the website:** Quality → FOD → **Walks**.

1. Pick the area.
2. Walk it. If it was clean, choose **Nothing found**.
3. Otherwise add each item found as a finding (next section), then click **Record walk**.

No signal on the ramp?

Record the walk anyway. It waits on the phone and is sent once when you are back in coverage, keeping the time the walk was actually done.

An area that goes past its interval shows as **overdue**, and the alert emails get a reminder once a day until someone walks it.

3. Record a finding

Field	What to enter
Item type	Hardware, tool, rag, safety wire, debris, wildlife or other
Description	What it was, for example *AN960 washer*
Where	The area, plus exact location text. Optionally tap **Use my location** for GPS.
Photo	Optional; taken with the camera or picked from the phone
Aircraft	Optional; the aircraft it was found on or near
Possible aircraft damage or ingestion	Tick it when the item may have hit or been ingested by the aircraft

Possible damage grounds the aircraft

With an aircraft selected and **Possible aircraft damage or ingestion** ticked, Avistrata opens a grounding **FOD squawk** in that aircraft's discrepancy log and alerts the people in Settings. The aircraft stays grounded until the squawk is cleared there after inspection, the same way as a lost tool.

4. Close a finding and report it to SMS

1. Open the finding under Quality → FOD → **Findings**.
2. Enter the **corrective action**: what was done (for example *Ramp swept, source traced to the GPU cart, cart repaired*).
3. Click **Close the finding**. It can't be closed without a corrective action.

To bring it into your safety management system, click **Raise an SMS hazard**, or **Link** it to an existing hazard. The hazard appears in Quality → Safety (SMS) with the FOD area and source, ready for the safety officer to assess.

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5. Count small items on task cards

Rags, hardware, safety wire, and caps and plugs are counted out and back on the task card, in **Small items** next to **Tools**. This works on the website and in the mechanic screens on both phones, offline too.

1. Click **Count out**, choose the type, describe it and enter the quantity (for example *3 shop rags*).
2. When the job is done, click **Count back** and enter the quantity that came back.
3. If fewer came back (installed, used up, scrapped), write why.

The card can't be signed off while a line is short with no reason given, or while a tool is still checked out. Once signed off, the small items are locked as part of the record.

6. The FOD check before return to service

When you click **Close Work Order**, Avistrata asks for the FOD check. All three must be ticked:

- **Area clear**: the work area is swept and clean.
- **Aircraft clear**: aircraft, intakes and exhausts clear, panels closed.
- **Tools and small items accounted for**: every tool checked in and every small item counted back.

The check is refused while any card on the work order still has a tool out or a short small-item line. If the work order is reopened, a new check is needed before it closes again. Sub work orders are covered by the parent's check.

7. Engine and ground runs

A task card counts as a run card when it is marked as a run, its title says engine run, ground run, run-up or taxi test, or it needs the Engine run or Taxi qualification. Click **Record FOD check** on the card before the run. With the setting at Required, the card can't be signed off without it. You can record it on the website card or in the mechanic app.

8. Trends and reporting

Quality → FOD → **Dashboard** shows:

- Areas overdue for a walk, open findings, and possible-damage findings.
- Walks done on time over the last 30 days, and walk compliance per area.
- Findings by area, by item type and by month, over 12 months.
- The list of possible-damage findings and the aircraft involved.

Click **Download findings (CSV)** or **Download walks (CSV)** for audits, safety meetings or your own analysis.

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Related features

- **Tool control and lost tool reports:** a lost tool marked safety of flight or aircraft impounded also grounds the aircraft with a FOD squawk.
- **Training:** the recurrent *Tool control and FOD awareness* course tracks who is current.
- **AOG events:** use the *Damage / FOD* root cause so FOD downtime shows up in AOG reporting.

Tip

Start with your busiest ramp area on a daily walk and set both checks to Optional for a week, so people learn the screens. Then switch them to Required.

Questions? Call Avistrata support at **703.520.5040** or visit mrotracker.com.

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