Control of Foreign Material Program

Foreign matter detectors can include metal detectors, x-ray, color sorters, screens, sieves and filters. They should be designed and installed to detect and/or trap foreign objects that have been identified in the facility.

Work instructions should be written on the monitoring of foreign material detection and prevention devices. SOPs should define the frequency of monitoring such devices, the criteria used in monitoring, and the corrective actions to take when foreign materials are discovered in the product or facility.

Some examples of frequency of monitoring may be hourly metal detector checks, screen checks once per shift, and filter checks once per shift or once per load.

Inspections are conducted to prevent foreign material contamination of product. Temporary repairs are not used within the processing areas or where food is handled or stored.

Glass inspections are conducted regularly for breakage, including instrument dial covers and thermometers. All lights in the facility should be shatterproof and protected. Wood used in processing / handling area should be well maintained and clean.

There are no loose materials on processing equipment. Knives and cutting instruments are in good repair, monitored, clean and sanitized.

Misc. materials should not be stored on equipment, electrical/utility boxes and raw product and finished product shelving. All tools and equipment parts should be stored in a proper container or toolbox, not a food product container.

The facility should have a procedure in place to identify, isolate, inspect and rework or dispose of product that is known to be at risk of foreign matter contamination. This should include isolation, labeling, quarantine of affected product, and depending on the nature of the suspected contaminant, further inspection or examination of the product to determine the source and extent of the contamination so that a decision can be taken on its disposition.

When glass or similar breakage occurs, the procedure should include a glass cleanup process that covers the footprint of the tramp glass. The procedure should include a shutdown of the whole area, and a thorough cleanup to eliminate all broken glass. Brooms, brushes, vacuums and footwear must be included in the cleanup. The area should be thoroughly inspected before recommencing operations.