The **Best Practice Guideline: Foreign Body Detection** published by the British Retail Consortium, (BRC) is a practical best practice reference for suppliers and manufacturers on preventing product contamination. This guide focuses on exclusively on technologies behind X-ray and metal detection and implementing these systems.

The product contamination is serious business with the potential to cause harm, customer complaints, product waste, and brand damage.

Every manufacturing or storage and transport business must have an effective system to prevent product contamination by foreign bodies.

**This guideline provides a framework for the user to:**

- Identify the requirements for foreign body detecting equipment
- Give guidance on selecting the design and positioning of equipment
- Give guidance on the effective operation of equipment
- Understand how to undertake testing of equipment.

**Topics covered include:**

- **Importance of Foreign Body Detection:** discusses why foreign body detection is essential.
- **Principles of Operation – Metal Detection and X-Ray Inspection:** extensively outlines the principles of these two technologies and an analysis of choosing one over the other.
- **System Design:** comprehensively looks at general design principles, *(stability, environmental protection and hygienic design)* and equipment elements *(search/detection devices, electronic control systems, product transport/conveyor systems and automatic rejection systems)*. Includes discussion of failsafe system design and non-conveyor system design. Complete with illustrations.
- **Operating Sensitivity:** an in-depth consideration of the factors affecting sensitivity performance *(product characteristics, contaminant characteristics, orientation effect, equipment aperture size)*. Text is illustrated using figures, a contaminant characteristics matrix and table. Topic also includes material on establishing a sensitivity standard with four appendices.
- **Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance:** covers the general principles and personnel training while working with your equipment supplier in each stage of deployment.
- **Performance Verification:** details the verification procedure,
designing the test, test frequency, number of tests, detector and reject device test methods, failsafe systems testing and documentation of test results.

- **Personnel Training:** advice on the competency and education of personnel involved in your inspection program.
- **Documentation:** lists examples of documentation required should there be an investigation after a complaint.
- **Corrective Action:** explores the action required if a verification test fails, the treatment of rejected product, and procedures for corrective and preventive action.
- **Computer Connectivity and Data Analysis:** a general look at methods of gathering and exchanging data, and integrating inspection systems into factory management software.

Avoid customer complaints, product waste, withdrawal, recall, and loss of business, order copies of BRC’s **Best Practice Guideline: Foreign Body Detection** for senior managers, technicians, inspectors and staff.