

F.A.Q Frequently asked questions

Which products are affected?

All packaged products from the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries, including fresh and temperature-controlled products.

Which foreign bodies are not detectable?

Wood, fabric, insects, cores, packaging films and low-density plastics.

What are the possible detection thresholds?

For X-ray technology systems, the thresholds depend on the density and thickness of the foreign bodies sought, but also on the thickness and moisture content of the product to be tested. For conventional metal detectors, the thresholds are different for Fe, non-Fe and stainless steel, and the effect and size of the product inspected is also important (dry or damp).

Can the products be contaminated during the inspection?

Impossible, our X-rays are produced by an electrical generator.

Is it possible to check a pallet without unpacking it?

No, whatever technology is chosen, to detect finely, you have to inspect at a small scale.

Do you have the possibility to re-palletize identically after inspection?

Yes, we are equipped with automatic shrink-wrappers and wrappers and all types of tape and hot melt glue needed for repackaging. We also re-label the trays.

How do we send you products for inspection?

In accordance with our procedures, we systematically carry out tests on your products and contaminants to define the feasibility of the operation and to determine the detection threshold. As soon as the results have been recorded, we will provide you with a quotation and commit to the chosen sensitivity. Very often, less than 48 hours pass between the first contact and the delivery of the products to be checked.

Is there a charge for the tests?

No, the tests are free, we check your products and help you to manage crisis situations. We have extensive experience in logistics flows, so the overall approach to production incidents is handled with confidence.

How much does an inspection cost?

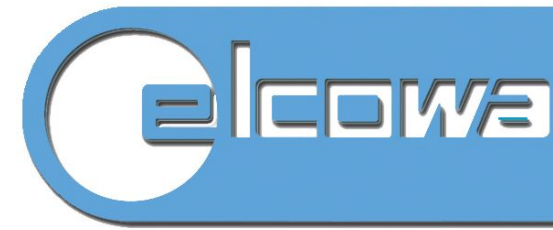
It varies according to the application and the complexity of the work, but in the vast majority of cases it is less than the costs of product destruction, stock-outs, product immobilization, penalties and other customer/supplier constraints. Our services are often covered by the customer's own insurance.

How long does the inspection last?

It depends on the format to be controlled and the size of the contaminant, but we have the processing flexibility, the experience, the equipment, and the storage space to meet your time constraints.

Can the inspection be carried out at the customer's site?

No, our equipment is sensitive, unique and dedicated to our business, the staff must be selected, specifically trained and experienced to ensure reliable inspection. French legislation requires a radiation protection officer in the company (PCR function) for any use of an X-ray system.



DETECTION OF FOREIGN BODIES PREVENTIVE and CURATIVE ANALYSIS FAULT SEARCH WEIGHT CHECK CO-PACKING



Inspection of food, pharmaceutical
and cosmetic products

Inspections, advice & expertise

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Who are we?

ELCOWA is an SME with 40 employees, a company on a human scale and which listens to its customers. Established in 1965, we have many years of experience in meeting the needs of all sizes of business, including the largest industrial groups.

As a specialist in food safety and a supplier of metal particle detectors, X-ray inspection systems and weighing equipment, we have been at your side for over 30 years,



ELCOWA, Europe's leading company for the re-inspection of manufactured products.

The re-inspection service

Located in Mulhouse, thus very close to its European customers (France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Poland and Lithuania), the center dedicated to inspection is equipped with all the equipment capable of responding favorably to the applications entrusted. We are equipped with X-ray technology, standard magnetic field, for aluminized laminates or pure aluminum packaging. With a storage capacity of 750 pallets and unrivalled responsiveness, we have been checking our customers' products with the utmost rigor for over 20 years before putting them on the market. We are also equipped with automatic shrink-wrappers to guarantee identical repalletizing.

ELCOWA expertise

Since the creation of the contract inspection activity, we have dealt with several thousand requests, often recurring, one-off and sometimes unique. These years of experience allow us to offer you the best solutions for the inspection of your products in terms of quality, detection threshold but also with an unequalled reaction time. Our very strict procedures are perfectly adapted to the rigor and challenge of the work entrusted to us.

At the end of or during the controls, the rejected products can be sent by express delivery for analysis by your services. In the case of a responsible third party (e.g. supplier), the inspection of rejected products can be made in real time in Mulhouse in the presence of bailiffs or insurance experts. Our test reports are used as a reference and are stored for 3 years.

Product safety & organically produced products

The energy used on all our X-ray systems is less than 100Kev, so there is no change of any kind to the products after testing and no contraindication for organic products.

Our services

Foreign body detection

- ☑ METAL DETECTION (Steel, stainless steel, iron, brass, copper, bronze, aluminum*)
- ☑ GLASS DETECTION (Neutral, specific or armed)
- ☑ STONE/PEBBLE/CERAMIC DETECTION
- ☑ DETECTION OF DENSE and THICK PLASTICS
- ☑ DETECTION OF CALCIFIED BONES

Sensitivity thresholds vary depending on the type of alloy

Containers and packaging covered by our inspections

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Metal: cans, blisters, bags, pouches, trays, aerosols, clipped products

Glass: jars, bottles, jars, glasses, jars, bottles, tubes

In cardboard or plastic: cases, boxes, packages, cartons, crates, packs, bricks, trays. The inspection is made if the detection threshold is correct, but more often than not, a unit inspection is necessary.

Search for the most frequent defects

- Absence (Plunger tube, valve, pod, promotional items)
- Unwanted presence (Double leaflet, pipette, juice)
- Glass defects: breakage, swinging, glazing, granite appearance
- Manufacturing defects, presence of bubbles, wooliness (cheese factory)
- Cross-contamination

Weight check

- Check of underweight, overweight, batch validation (TU1/TU2 standard)



Co-packing

- Coupled with an inspection or without one, depending on the specifications
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Fresh or temperature-controlled products

Our solution and facilities ensure that the cold chain is not broken, here one of our customers is checking the temperature of his products during the operation.

