

Is the PM dying?

I have recently returned from exhibiting for People and Processes, Inc. at the PdM 2006/ Lubrication World conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee. As this conference is mainly dedicated to predictive (PdM) technologies, many companies that send people have more advanced maintenance programs in place. Based on industry type, PdM activities should be occurring on upwards of 95% of all rotating equipment in the facility, not just critical equipment. It is recommended that only 20-25% of equipment be covered by traditional time-based invasive PMs. I emphasize the word "invasive" and challenge it. In the Maintenance world, we get hung up on a PM being invasive. I offer that the majority of PMs should be inspections, not a rebuild or corrective action. Beyond my own experiences, I have talked with many Maintenance Managers and Technicians that beg for either maintenance or operations personnel to simply inspect their equipment. A scheduled and properly executed PM (to a specification), either by maintenance or operations forces someone to listen, feel, and/or smell that equipment at a given time-based interval. Are the bolts loose or at the proper torque, the belts tensioned to the manufacturer's specification, the sheaves worn, the bearings squealing from lack of lubrication? From the inspection notes, corrective actions are properly planned and executed with the right parts kitted, the right resources available, and the equipment available for repair activities. Sure, PdM is very effective and efficient but until you have true equipment ownership, the inspection PM is a valuable tool for building equipment reliability.

If you would like more information on how to develop a true inspection PM, send an email to me at jshiver@peopleandprocesses.com. Be sure to visit our website at www.peopleandprocesses.com for seminars and other helpful information as well.

About the author:

Jeff Shiver is a Certified Maintenance and Reliability Professional, and Certified Plant Maintenance Manager. He held operations and technical roles across 20 years for a global manufacturer, a leader in confectionary snacks, food processing and pet care. Jeff worked in 4 different manufacturing sites and on 2 U.S. and Canadian regional assignments. Prior to his last manufacturing role as an Operations Area Manager, he was the site Maintenance Manager where he led a change effort towards a proactive reliability-based culture. His passion for maintenance and operations best practices led him to People and Processes, Inc. where he is a Managing Principal. Jeff can be contacted at jshiver@peopleandprocesses.com.