Hidden Costs of non-specialized lubrication professionals

There are costs associated with having a workforce that is not trained in best lubrication practices. The following highlights some of those costs.

Expensive and Wasteful Oil Analysis

- Poorly sampled oil (not repeatable and not representative)
- Sampling oil at the wrong frequency
- Incorrect use of onsite oil analysis instruments
- Oil analysis data without baselines or limits/alarms
- Not responding to oil analysis alarms
- Wrong selection of oil analysis tests Selecting a lab based on price

Undetected Faults and Failures

- Unrecognized machine faults on an oil analysis report
- Poor inspections, unrecognized problems
- Not properly inspecting used filters for wear debris
- Unrecognized oil contamination or degradation
- Undetected wrong oil or mislabeled oil
- Undetected, wrongly performed repairs/installs

High Cost of Lubrication

- Premature oil changes
- Lack of lubricant consolidation
- Using synthetics needlessly
- Wrongly selected lubricants
- Wrongly applied lubricants
- Accepting out-of-spec oil
- Leaky oil that goes undetected and unrepaired

Poorly Specified Equipment/Parts Purchases

- Filters that don’t work as intended
- Internally contaminated new or rebuilt machinery
- Lack of proper breathers and filters preinstalled
- Lack of proper sampling hardware preinstalled
- Wrong new lubricant factory fill
- Improper selection of filters and separators

High Labor Cost

- Overtime cost for unnecessary emergent repairs
- High cost of unnecessary inspections
- High cost of unnecessary PMs

- Excessive use of labor for lubrication
- Trial-and-error troubleshooting
- Poor workforce morale/low productivity

High Cost of Reactive Maintenance

- High spares inventories
- Repeating past mistakes
- Treating symptoms not causes
- Forced outage and lost production
- Product quality problems

Costly Mistakes that Lead to Premature Failure

- Putting any oil in a machine instead of the right oil
- Using defective or spoiled new oil
- Failure to use bottom sediment and water (BS&W) bowls, sight glasses and mag plugs
- Mixing incompatible greases
- Outdoor lubricant storage
- Handling and storage practices that lead to lubricant contamination
- Poorly lubricated and protected equipment in storage Ineffective system flushing
- Changing engine air cleaners (filters) too often
- Using factory-recommended lubricants and filters (with exceptions)
- Improper sump and reservoir management practices
- Uncalibrated or incorrectly calibrated grease guns
- Careless washdown spray practices
- Failure to monitor and control lubricant particle and moisture levels

High Machine Energy Consumption

- Wrong selection of lubricant viscosity
- Wrong selection of grease type and consistency
- Overgreasing or undergreasing a bearing
- Using the wrong lubricant viscosity
- Wrong selection of base oils and/or additives
- Not changing the oil at the right interval