

WHY FIRMS ARE TURNING TO TPM

Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) is fast becoming a global standard amongst firms. While relatively new to South Africa the Total Productive Maintenance approach to manufacturing is internationally acclaimed and the cornerstone of the burgeoning India and Japanese automotive industries.

On several visits over the past decade to a range of factories in these countries we were astounded how widely and meticulously TPM is being applied. TPM is enabling old production lines and machines to be as productive as they were when new - saving companies significant sums in replacement costs, stoppages and re-works.

When a supply chain is under increasing cost, quality and delivery pressure, TPM is the approach making it possible.

One of the major benefits is the change TPM brings to organisational culture - empowering machine operators and building a more harmonious and productive workforce.

TPM is an holistic approach to equipment maintenance that strives to achieve perfect production:

- No Breakdowns
- No Small Stops or Slow Running
- No Defects

In addition it values a safe working environment:

- No Accidents

TPM emphasizes proactive and preventative maintenance to maximize the operational efficiency of equipment. It blurs the distinction between the roles of production and maintenance by placing a strong emphasis on empowering operators to help maintain their equipment.

The implementation of a TPM program creates a shared responsibility for equipment that encourages greater involvement by plant floor workers. In the right environment this can be very effective in improving productivity (increasing up time, reducing cycle times, and eliminating defects).



The traditional TPM model consists of a 5S foundation (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain) and eight supporting activities.

Annually the AIDC conducts an industry learning tour to a manufacturing country, from whom SA can learn - for more information on the next tour contact us.

For more information on TPM and how these principles can be implemented contact
Tawfeeq Abrahams: tabrahams@aidcec.co.za