Lubrication Best Practices

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Lubricants are the life blood of the equipment in a cement plant. A disciplined approach to lubrication practices can improve reliability and productivity while reducing costs. A recent review of lubrication practices in the cement industry has demonstrated that improvements can be made.

Lubrication is often delegated to a couple of specialists in the lubrication department. The main tasks of these personnel is to maintain lubricant levels within the proper ranges for the equipment. Often these personnel have been selected from the hourly work force and have only received on the job training. In many plants these seasoned personnel are approaching retirement age. Companies that have achieved maintenance excellence understand the importance of lubrication practices. Lubrication is managed holistically with the key roles and responsibilities understood and implemented. Lubricant suppliers are seen as an important resource in lubricant selection and trouble shooting. Lubricants are carefully selected based on the equipment requirements. Plant personnel, including the lubrication specialists are trained in good lubrication practices as well as trouble shooting. Lubrication is included in continuous improvement efforts.