



Maintaining Uptime in the Pharmaceutical Industry



Uptime

This paper is part three of a four-part collection of white papers created to address four crucial aspects of the pharmaceutical industry. Success in the pharmaceutical industry requires attention to detail on a microscopic level. This paper provides readers with the importance of reliable maintenance and its role in improving uptime in pharmaceutical operations. A core concept of uptime is ensuring projects are executed accurately and efficiently, with the intention of reducing extra costs as a result of unnecessary system downtime. Buying the right oil-free Class 0 air compressor and efficiently servicing pharmaceutical compressed air systems is critical to maintaining maximum performance as well as critical air purity. When evaluating compressed air system maintenance services, customers should demand the following performance metrics from a reliable service program.

DOWNTIME PREVENTION

In the event of a compressed air system malfunction, the longer it goes unfixed, the more unplanned downtime occurs. Even the smallest issues can lead to devastating financial consequences. According to the US Department of Energy, a low to moderate compressed air system leak can waste as much as 20%- 30% of the compressor's output. For example, a leak equivalent to 20% of total air produced, when calculated by the average number of production hours per year and the average power costs per kWh, can reveal financial losses equivalent to \$17,600 per year. Much worse for the pharmaceutical industry, some leaks can increase the risk of contaminants affecting how your system operates and compromising final products. The goal of a competent maintenance program is not to simply provide a quick resolution to an issue, but to prevent it by ensuring regular and thorough maintenance is consistently performed. Proper compressed air system maintenance can regulate the extent to which the air is affected by outside contaminants to ensure compressed air systems are running at full capacity and prevent downtime.

If left without service for an extended period of time, leaks and other system issues can lead to unexpected downtime. With each minute of downtime, the facility loses productivity and also accumulates additional operating costs to compensate for offline machinery. Utilizing a reliable network of highly qualified and/or certified technicians is crucial to ensuring quick, yet quality maintenance procedures, regardless of location in the world. With firm commitments for 24/7 technician availability, pharmaceutical operations will save time, money, and resources, for all expected and unexpected maintenance needs that occur in the facility.

SHARED INFORMATION

Access to a wide, global network of information is a necessity for maintaining uptime in any facility. While the sheer number of technicians available worldwide is crucial to improving uptime, the ability to share expertise within the network is the key to having an efficient team. Consider the following scenario: A compressor unexpectedly shuts down, prompting the plant manager to call a service technician. The technician arrives, examines the situation, and struggles to diagnose the issue. As part of a connected network of experienced technicians, the technician can consult with other technicians via a mobile device and tap into their expertise to properly diagnose the problem. As a result, customers are confident that their problem will always be fixed as quickly and efficiently as possible. Similarly, technicians in the field are confident knowing they have access to best practices, maintenance procedures, and more from their global

network.

Your compressed air system is only as good as its components and operators. Replacing the right parts at the right time ensures longer compressor life and reduces the risk of unwanted and unplanned downtime.

CONSISTENCY IS KEY

While the ability to share information regardless of location and speed of resolution are two important benefits to choosing a service team with a broad network, utilizing the same Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for all maintenance work is an excellent way of ensuring consistently high quality and fast results.

No one knows compressed air system components like the manufacturer that made it. While a third-party team can effectively execute repairs, highly trained technicians working with OEM parts, processes and rigorous standards almost always reach optimal solutions faster and with greater efficiencies.

Furthermore, compressed air purity can be unwittingly compromised by lack of service experience and lack of familiarity with the system. With the strict compliance demands on compressed air in the pharmaceutical industry, a lapse in purity can lead to regulatory imposed production downtime and exposure to liabilities. Consistently utilizing OEM components and recommended consumables is a simple, yet effective, way to lower the risk of air contamination and the production downtime that can result.

Partner with an expert, full-service compressed air system solutions provider, like Ingersoll Rand, who has your company's success as its inspiration for its service programs. Ingersoll Rand offers global solutions for compressed air, from manufacturing to parts, rental, and unique service programs to help decrease unplanned downtime and costly production interruptions. Because of Ingersoll Rand's comprehensive service offering and extensive global reach, Ingersoll Rand customers experience higher satisfaction and know with confidence that all aspects of their compressed air system will function with high performance.

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