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NEWSLETTER

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It's Time to Register!

Machine Lubrication Technician and Machine Lubricant Analyst Level I Class

- By: **Matt Spurlock** is AMRRI's VP of Operations and Technology, and the lead trainer.
- When: **March 28-31, 2016**
- Where: **Tribologik Laboratories**, 1212 172nd St., Hammond, IN 46324
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Don't Forget – Register NOW!

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Lubricant Handling and Storage (Ctd)

In our December 2015 issue, we have set out the underlying principles for the safe storage and handling of lubricants, e.g.: store indoors, in clearly identified, segregated, non-galvanized containers/tanks/barrels, in a clean, dedicated room, do not store outside, etc.

Areas with oil mist should be clearly labeled with warning signs. Employees should be aware of the risks to which they may be exposed and follow proper training on how to protect their health, safety and environment.

Caps and drains of both containers and equipment should be kept tightly closed and maintained in good condition. Only barrels containing compatible materials should be stored on the same pallet and retention trays should be placed underneath.

In case of Accidental Spillage

Despite these precautions, accidental oil spills can still occur, in which case a few basic procedures must be followed:

1. The spill must be cleaned immediately using special hydrocarbon absorbing materials.
2. Prevent oil run off into the soil or sewers to avoid environmental pollution.
3. Used rags and absorbents should be placed in approved containers after use.
4. Solvent containers must be grounded to prevent sparks from static electricity.

Fire extinguishers should be easily accessible and the premises must be well ventilated.

Better Safe than Sorry

Just like for any chemical, there are two preconditions for the safe and efficient storage of lubricants: 1) you must have a very thorough understanding of the equipment and maintenance requirements of the company and 2) a very good knowledge of the volume that must and can be stored at the same time within the premises.

In this respect, you must:

- Determine the **rate of consumption** of each lubricant and manage your stocks efficiently. You must keep a sufficient quantity to fulfill your needs without having to call your supplier for additional, unplanned deliveries. On the other hand, too large an inventory poses the risk of exceeding the expiry or “best before” date, which may cause lubricants to lose their lubricating properties. This is particularly important with greases, which tend to separate after a while.
- Determine your indoors **storage capacity** to protect your lubricants from adverse weather and temperature conditions and prevent contamination.
- Once the consumption rate and storage capacity have been determined, you will be able to decide the correct type and size of containers to be used. A large bulk storage tank may yield the best results for a high consumption rate, whereas a low consumption rate may command a rack mounted storage system or 55-gallon drums.
- Determine if pre-filtration is required before adding oil to container (new oil is not necessarily clean).
- Determine your **supplier’s delivery cycles and delays**, in order to prevent lubricant shortage for your maintenance needs.

Good planning and inventory management practices will not only generate time and money savings for your maintenance department, but they will also help preserving the original quality of your lubricants. They will also allow you to better organise your storage space and choose the right type and size of containers for your needs.

Contact your Account Manager for further information.

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