

Getting your machinery up and running after downtime

If you need to have operations up and running after a long period of downtime, there are a few things you'll need to consider. The first is keeping you and your teams safe, then opening up with a simple but thorough process that can help prevent damage or any complications. Here's what we recommend to keep you, and your equipment, safe.

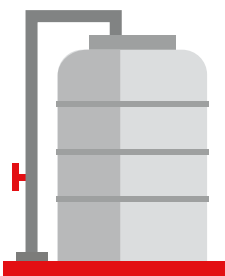
First step - revisit the shutdown plan



If you followed a closing down list, that's a great place to start.

- Use your 'deactivation list' as a reminder for how equipment was prepared before closure, and what precautions were taken to preserve equipment and gear.
- Remember to consult manufacturers' operating and maintenance manuals for equipment pre-start and re-start procedures.

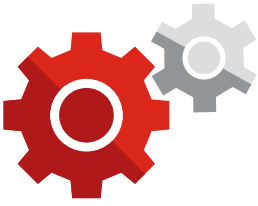
Check, fill and uncover



Check everything is clear and ready to go.

- Replace any process materials within process vessels, tanks, pumps, and pipework.
- Remove any covers from building air conditioning/ventilation vent openings that were in place to prevent entry by insects, rodents, birds, and other animals.

Pause before starting engines and motors



You'll need to do some quick checks first.

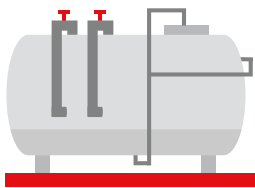
- If you've sealed sensitive electrical control equipment and their spares, remember to remove these and any desiccant packages.
- Refuel petrol and diesel driven engines.
- Check the condition of lubricants in engines, compressors, gearboxes, bearings, etc. You might need to conduct an oil sample analysis for large expensive equipment that has been idle for more than, say, six months. Replace or replenish if you need to.
- Reinstall carbon brushes in commutators/slip rings in large electric motors and remove any moisture absorbing packages (desiccants).

Remove protective coatings



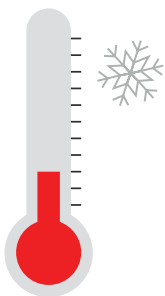
- Remove any protective coatings that have been applied to the surfaces of the machinery. These might include things like protective waxes, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) coatings, plastic bags and films, powders, etc. and any dust covers, sheeting or plastic films.

Hot tips for boilers



- Consult manufacturers' manuals for start-up procedures for boilers prior to firing them up. Remove any moisture absorbing packages (desiccants).

Keeping things chill



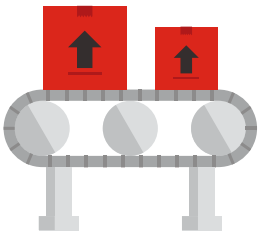
- Refer to the manufacturer's operating instructions before restarting any air-conditioning, chiller and refrigeration plant.
- Make sure air-conditioning condenser coils are cleaned and that water chiller systems are inspected. Look for tube corrosion and check the condition of cathodic protection.
- Ensure refrigeration compressor crankcase heaters are turned on.

From Lock-outs to tag-outs



- Don't forget to remove any 'lock-outs/tag-outs' that were applied during the shutdown.

From one end to the other



- Give a final check to make sure that all plant and equipment is operating as it should. If any individual plant or machinery is interlinked (such as conveyors and process equipment, etc.) make sure that these pieces of plant are working individually, and in harmony with one another.

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