

RESTARTING EQUIPMENT AFTER BUSINESS SHUTDOWN

Minimize equipment damage after COVID-19 shutdown.

Restarting a business after an idle period or shutdown requires planning and preparation to avoid equipment related issues and unexpected breakdown. Listed below are various considerations for restarting equipment and reopening a facility after shutdown.

Checklist

- ▶ The use of disinfectant foggers can cause corrosion and damage to sensitive electrical equipment. Prior to use, ensure disinfectant chemicals are compatible with electrical equipment.
- ▶ If disinfectant fogging was performed, survey the electrical components for damage or corrosion by a qualified contractor.
- ▶ Travel restrictions may result in a lack of specialized/factory trained service technicians. Ensure that only qualified contractors or employees perform repairs and service.
- ▶ Supply chain interruptions may affect the availability of materials and spare parts. Ensure that only OEM parts are used for repairs and planned replacements are not deferred.
- ▶ Ensure that the installation of shielding for social distancing does not interfere with equipment or cause overheating due to interrupted air flow.
- ▶ Train employees in enhanced cleaning procedures to avoid damage to electrical equipment.
- ▶ Before a full resumption of operations, perform a Risk Assessment Inspection of the facility to locate any failure points.
- ▶ Any scheduled maintenance items that were deferred should be completed prior to starting equipment.
- ▶ If building HVAC was shutdown, have a qualified contractor inspect and service the equipment prior to initial startup. Inspect building systems and equipment for damage from excessive condensation.
- ▶ In hot climates, excessive indoor heat can cause damage to delicate electrical equipment requiring inspection/service if the air conditioning was shutdown.
- ▶ Restarting boilers should be performed by a trained individual after a thorough inspection of the appliance.
- ▶ Plan startup of electrical in stages to avoid surge damage. This is especially important where large loads are involved.
- ▶ Idled mechanical equipment components such as bearings, shafts, seals and valves may have become seized over time. Ensure all motive equipment has proper lubrication levels. Check lubricants for moisture contamination where indicated.
- ▶ Supply chain disruptions can force the use of new cleaning and production chemicals. Ensure that any new chemicals are acceptable to the equipment manufacturer to avoid equipment damage.

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Checklist (continued)

- ▶ If production equipment has been altered to produce a different product, ensure that changes are in full compliance with OEM.
- ▶ Ensure any substantial increase in production is within the capacity of the machines.
- ▶ If additional electrical equipment is installed to address COVID-19 concerns, such as electric locking systems, electric eye plumbing fixtures, etc., have a qualified electrician ensure proper installation and perform load analysis.
- ▶ If electrical equipment is relocated to comply with social distancing, have a qualified electrician provide permanently installed power. Do not use extension cords or other temporary wiring.
- ▶ Enhanced spacing of desks and workstations may require movement of electrical equipment. Excessive use of extension cords not only present a fire hazard but can also result in equipment damage from low voltage and overheating.
- ▶ Excessive use of equipment to accommodate “split sessions” can result in equipment damage from overheating. Provide additional equipment to minimize usage cycles.

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