

Now you know what to do, do you do what you know?

Many of you at various levels in maintenance management have attended courses, from 2 day public or in-house courses dealing with one particular maintenance technique, such as Reliability Centred Maintenance, Total Productive Maintenance, Life Cycle Cost Analysis, etc to multi-year professional courses, such as the Maintenance and Reliability Engineering courses, up to Master Degree level, as offered by Monash University.

In the short courses you may have had some exposure to a hands-on exercise to assist understanding of the method. In the university courses you would have had to produce assignments that, in many cases, required application of some technique to a real-life asset or problem at your place of work. As a lecturer in this course I derive great satisfaction from seeing the magnitude of improvements, whether financial or linked to safety, are achievable in this way. The employer benefits and probably earn back the cost of supporting their employees in these studies many times over.

However, the question is what the ongoing benefit is of attending courses. We have to assume that the outcome of any type of course is 'know-how'. But this know-how is of little use if it is not implemented on an ongoing basis. How much of what you've learned have you practiced?

Knowledge is only the start

The good news is that some students attracted the attention of their superiors by the excellent results they achieved with their assignment projects, to the extent that the same technique will be applied to many other assets. Unfortunately, this seems to happen in a few cases only, most likely due to the high workload, which means 'keep doing what we have always done' as there is little time to sit back and analyse for improvement. This is where consultants can assist.

As Maintenance Consultants we believe that a successful consultancy includes the transfer of the necessary skills to the client's in-house team. Therefore, consulting is a combination of concise training that involves the application of the technique to actual client assets.

For example, during an intended RCM training program to teams of a waterboard, we developed comprehensive analyses of a water and a sewerage treatment plant, within half a day each. This was repeated by a second team for different types of these plants. As a result there was no need to do any more analysis as the training already delivered their final objective.

We also provide books for future reference during any training. The books have been called 'excellent' and 'real life-savers' by many students and their employers, as they show how to directly apply the technique on the job, without the need for further assistance.

If you are considering performing any kind of Hazops, RCM, TPM or maintainability analyses or an asset management audit, we would be pleased to offer our assistance as instructors/facilitators. See the home page on this website for more information on consulting, courses, powerpoint presentations and books.

Best regards,

Emile Eerens