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Machine Stabilization

Keeping your equipment running at optimum efficiency can be a chore. But the consequences of not doing it can have a dramatic affect on a machines output.

We have listed an outline to help Engineers and Technicians break down some of the things that go into keeping your equipment productive.

Stabilizing the machine. First and foremost, to bring any machine up to snuff the first thing is to stabilize it. By that we mean to eliminate all the obvious defects that is attributed to the normal wear and tear.

- Clean the machine inside and out
 - Clean all dust and dirt form machine
 - Get rid of all lead scrap or components lost during assembly
 - Wipe down the outside of the machine
 - Touch up the paint
- Check for loose bearings, lead screws or anything that will cause the product to not register properly
 - Looseness in a system will cause allot of problems
 - Even fixtures that are not seated properly will variations in the process
 - Any bearing that comes in contact with a piece of tooling that helps register a product needs to be checked
- Inspect and replace tooling
 - Check cutting surfaces
 - Worn out nozzles
- Repair or replace any air leaks or old pneumatic lines
 - Replace cracked or brittle lines with new ones
- Repair or replace any air cylinders that appear week or leak
- Inspect electrical connections
 - Clean contacts
 - Check for loose pins
 - Inspect terminal blocks for loose connections



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- Check drive belts and replace as needed
 - Cracked or dried out belts can eventually break
 - Old belts can become loose and cause misalignment
 - Includes conveyor belts
- Check all jigs and fixtures for wear and proper registration
 - Tooling that has dimensional errors will place a variable in the system
- Replace old hardware
 - Stripped screws and nuts can be a real problem
 - Proactively change any screw that is loosened and tightened on a regular basis
- Stabilize the machine
 - Perform all calibrations
 - Run demo boards

Notes:

Try to refrain from using “Good Used Parts”. Starting off with new parts give you a firm starting point.

During calibration if you run into any troubles avoid the temptation to “Tweak” or modify the machine calibration or programming. Dimensions and settings are there for a reason. The last thing you want to do is add another variable to the system.

A fresh coat of paint or even touching up the paint on equipment makes the machine more appealing to customers. It also lets operators and technicians know you care about the equipment.