

APPLICATION NOTE

5 ways test tools can improve safety around rotating machinery

The electrical hazards associated with electro-mechanical equipment are severe and the electrical safety PPE requirements are extensive. But what about safety concerns from the mechanical side of rotating machinery?

The three main objectives of mechanical safety are:

- Perform work from a safer distance from rotating parts and reduce number of entries/exits
- Take faulty machinery offline **BEFORE** a hazardous condition occurs
- Increase the safety of maintenance tasks and prove compliance by using correct tools

How to work more safely on moving parts

When the situation calls for working near operational machines with moving parts, take every opportunity to be as safe as possible.

1 Be very careful of moving shafts and other components

Wear safety glasses and other PPE. Never wear dangling lanyards or necklaces. Make sure that cables are equipped with the proper breakaways in case a cable is dropped into a moving shaft.



2 Work from a distance, further away from potential danger

If you need to get a part number from a machine or measure the speed of the rotating shaft, don't use your tachometer. Touching the moving shaft is too risky. Use an LED stroboscope, instead. The LED stroboscope "freezes" motion to measure speed, read information from moving parts, or identify potential problems without stopping the machinery or endangering personnel.

3 Use wireless tools whenever possible

Cables from tool to the sensor often get in the way during test measurements. And, the longer the job takes, the more time accidents have to happen.

A wireless tool doesn't have cables and can stay away from the immediate work area. Smart tools are designed for maximum efficiency. They walk the user through the task quickly and easily, reducing the time in the danger zone.



Use an LED stroboscope to measure speed, read information, or identify problems without stopping machinery



Identify faulty machines before failure

There are many ways that machine failure can cause an accident or a health and environmental problem:

- Catastrophic failure of machine causes injury to nearby personnel by release of moving parts
- Simple failure of machine releases product to environment—very high temperature, caustic chemicals, bio hazardous sewage or other, flammable material, etc.
- Secondary damage of machine leads to structural or foundation failure leading to injury

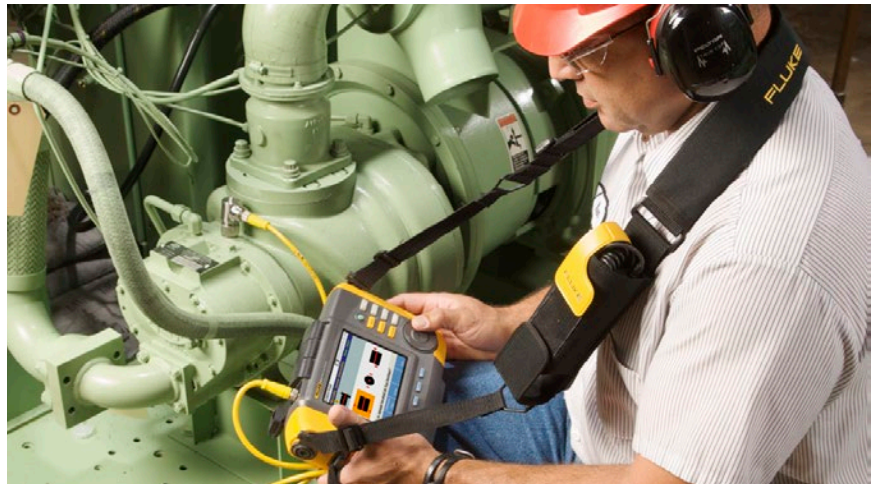
4 Use a vibration meter to regularly screen rotating machinery,

looking for early warning signs of potential failure. Add the vibration meter to operator inspection routes and take the 30 seconds to verify machine conditions haven't deteriorated.

5 Quickly evaluate the risk associated with machine faults

If you do identify a change in severity of machine fault, you'll need to quickly determine whether the fault is moderate (you still have months to go) or extreme (it could go at any time). A bearing that is ready to fail can lead to a catastrophic failure that destroys the entire shaft, the entire machine, stops production, leaks caustic materials, or injures someone nearby.

Facilities running large mechanical equipment increasingly use vibration testers to diagnose the most common mechanical faults. The tester assesses the fault level and provides a detailed report of the fault, including the severity and the repair recommendation.



Fluke. Keeping your world up and running.®

Fluke Corporation
PO Box 9090, Everett, WA 98206 U.S.A.

Fluke Europe B.V.
PO Box 1186, 5602 BD
Eindhoven, The Netherlands

For more information call:
In the U.S.A. (800) 443-5853 or
Fax (425) 446-5116
In Europe/M-East/Africa +31 (0) 40 2675 200 or
Fax +31 (0) 40 2675 222
In Canada (800)-36-FLUKE or
Fax (905) 890-6866
From other countries +1 (425) 446-5500 or
Fax +1 (425) 446-5116
Web access: <http://www.fluke.com>

©2015 Fluke Corporation.
Specifications subject to change without notice.
Printed in U.S.A. 8/2015 6006078a-en

Modification of this document is not permitted without written permission from Fluke Corporation.