

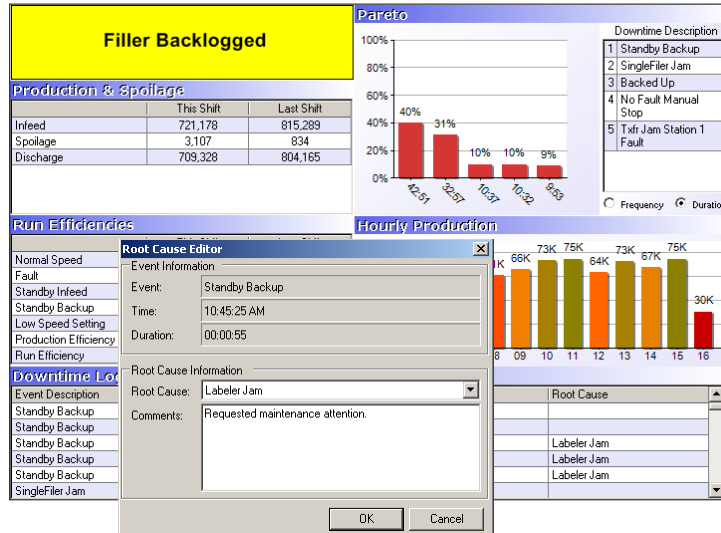
Intelligent Execution

Visibility into the Performance of Older Equipment

by Chris Chandler

Many production lines contain at least one older machine with limited automation. When older legacy equipment is critical to line performance, the lack of instrumentation can create a blind spot in the process. Management is often faced with expensive options for new equipment or upgrades in order to rectify this situation.

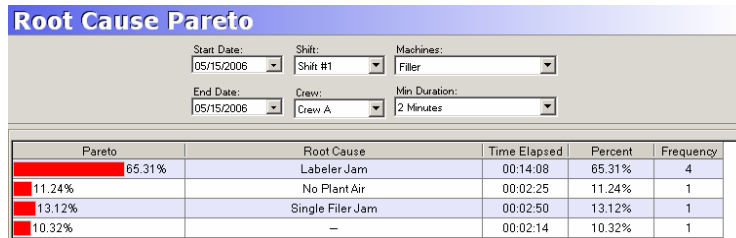
In this example, an old labeler is suspected of causing downtime on a packaging line. Frequent jams are backing up the line causing downtime at the filler. Nobody really knows how much downtime is at stake, but it could be as much as 40% of the filler's downtime!



Getting Value Step-by-Step:

1. Include older equipment in the root cause list for critical machines.
2. Assign root causes to machine events during the shift.
3. Analyze the impact on performance, and take action when necessary.

Using the root-cause assignment tool, the operator can easily attribute filler downtime to labeler jams as they occur. In the Root Cause Pareto, the labeler becomes the number one cause of filler downtime, with over fourteen minutes accumulated - enough intelligence to dispatch a mechanic to take action now.



Good manufacturing intelligence is gathered at every step of the process, regardless of age or automation level of the equipment. The new-found visibility into older equipment will drive performance beyond expectations.