Lubrication Systems — study guide

Lubrication is cheap; machinery failure is not. A lubrication system delivers the right amount of lubricant at the right interval to cut friction and wear. This guide covers the benefits, the types and what needs lubricating.

What a lubrication system is

A lubrication system is a mechanical system designed to lubricate internal mechanical systems. It provides the appropriate amounts of lubrication at set intervals in order to minimise friction and wear and optimise the service life of the machinery.

Benefits

Using a lubrication system brings reduced environmental impact, savings in repairs and spare parts, and increased machine reliability.

Types of lubrication system

Types of lubrication systems include circulating oil lubrication systems, dual-line lubrication systems, and single-point automatic lubricators. **Multi-point automatic lubricators** are designed to feed lubrication to several different points in the system simultaneously.

What gets lubricated

In a typical compressor system, the parts requiring lubrication are the contact area between the piston rings and the cylinder walls, and the contact area between the piston rod and the surface of the packing.

Key facts to remember

- A lubrication system delivers set amounts of lubricant at set intervals to cut friction and wear and extend machinery life.
- Benefits: reduced environmental impact, fewer repairs/spares, greater reliability.
- Types: circulating oil, dual-line, single-point automatic lubricators. Multi-point lubricators feed several points at once.
- Compressor: lubricate piston-ring/cylinder-wall contact and piston-rod/packing contact.

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