Implementing TPM: The North American Experience

TPM, or Total Productive Maintenance, is a maintenance strategy that focuses on maximizing the productivity of equipment and processes. TPM has been shown to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and increase product quality.



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by Charles J. Robinson

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TPM was developed in Japan in the 1970s. It has since been adopted by many companies around the world, including in North America. However, implementing TPM in North America can be challenging due to cultural differences between Japan and North America.

Challenges of Implementing TPM in North America

One of the biggest challenges of implementing TPM in North America is the difference in work culture. In Japan, employees are typically more willing to work together and to take responsibility for their work. This is not always the case in North America, where employees may be more individualistic and less willing to take on additional responsibilities.

Another challenge is the lack of understanding of TPM in North America. Many companies in North America are not familiar with TPM and its benefits. This can make it difficult to get buy-in from management and employees.

Benefits of Implementing TPM in North America

Despite the challenges, there are also many benefits to implementing TPM in North America. TPM can help companies to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and increase product quality.

Some of the specific benefits of TPM include:

* Reduced downtime * Increased production output * Improved quality * Reduced maintenance costs * Increased employee morale

How to Implement TPM in North America

There are a number of steps that companies can take to successfully implement TPM in North America. These steps include:

* Getting buy-in from management and employees * Educating employees about TPM * Developing a TPM implementation plan * Creating a TPM team * Implementing TPM tools and techniques * Measuring and evaluating the results of TPM

TPM is a powerful maintenance strategy that can help companies to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and increase product quality. However, implementing TPM in North America can be challenging due to cultural differences between Japan and North America. By understanding the challenges and benefits of TPM, and by following the steps outlined in this

article, companies can successfully implement TPM and reap its many benefits.

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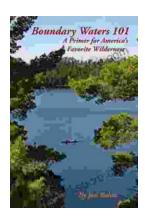
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