The Lube Techs at Domtar Espanola Pulp and Paper Mill have been on a journey of learning, continuous improvement and self-discovery over the past seven years. We have gone from a world where “tribal knowledge” was the mode of training, and a galvanized pail was the vessel of choice for adding oil, to understanding and implementing world class application and contamination control methods.

The management at Domtar recognize the value of training and education. Lube Techs are trained to Machine Lube Tech Level 1 and are certified Oil Monitoring Analysts (OMA).

Lube Techs take pride and ownership of the condition of the equipment in their area. Target cleanliness levels are determined and monitored using our on-site CSI 5200 oil analysis lab. On average 75 - 100 samples are processed on a monthly basis. Exception tests are sent to a lab to determine source of contaminant and type of wear. Samples for critical equipment are sent out to our off-site lab twice a year to ensure additive levels are intact, tan level is good, and to serve as a comparison for our on-site testing accuracy.

Many companies are good at oil sampling but what sets us apart is the action that is taken when an anomaly is found. The lube techs work closely with the vibration analysts, PM millwrights and supervision to identify the defect, determine severity and recommend corrective action to be taken. In the case of a hydraulic or lube unit having a high particle count a filter cart is immediately installed to bring the oil back to the target cleanliness level. The source of the contaminant is investigated and eliminated. Filtration is reviewed to assure that it is adequately maintaining target cleanliness and that the specified filter has not been inadvertently substituted by a well-intentioned buyer looking to reduce costs.

There is a culture of continuous improvement and “good enough” is not in our vocabulary. We are always looking for opportunities to “raise the bar” and increase our knowledge. It is exciting to see the value that a “Precision Lubrication” program delivers.

Our goal going forward is to consistently maintain a level of excellence in all areas of our plant. Attacking the root cause of failure is our preferred strategy for defect elimination. Leakage control has been an issue and we have implemented a program to eliminate oil loss due to inadequate sealing and design. Being a Pulp and Paper Mill we have just over 1,000 pumps. Water ingress is a recurring problem. By improving our seals, packing, and operator wash-up procedures we are beginning to make progress.

As Robin Sharma says “Small, daily, seemingly insignificant improvements and innovations, lead to staggering achievements over time”.

Domtar Espanola Program Highlights

Domtar Espanola Equipment
- Oil Site Oil Analysis Lab: CSI 5200
- Software: AMS Suite Machinery Health Manager – OilView Analysis
- Ultrasound: UE Ultraprobe 9000 and UE Ultraprobe 10,000
- Software: UE Spectralyzer and Ultraguard DMS 4
- Vibration Analysis: SKF Micrologs
- Software: SKF Aptitude Monitoring Suite
- Infrared Thermography: Camera – IR (Infrared Solutions) FlexCam T
- Software: Inside IR
- Motor Analysis: Baker Tester
- Boroscope

Best Oil Analysis Program

Front Row From Left: Rob Alexander, Mike Bond, Ken Hunt
Back Row From Left: Gord Bulloch, George Commission, Al McKirachia
Not Pictured: Al Schwartz, Keith St. Onge, Gary Martin, Charlie Lacasse