



Continuous Improvement Idea

Evaluating Inspection Quality

Extract from: **Tactical Planning for Mobile Equipment** microlearning course



mobileequipmentmanagement.com

Continuous Improvement Idea

Evaluating Inspection Quality

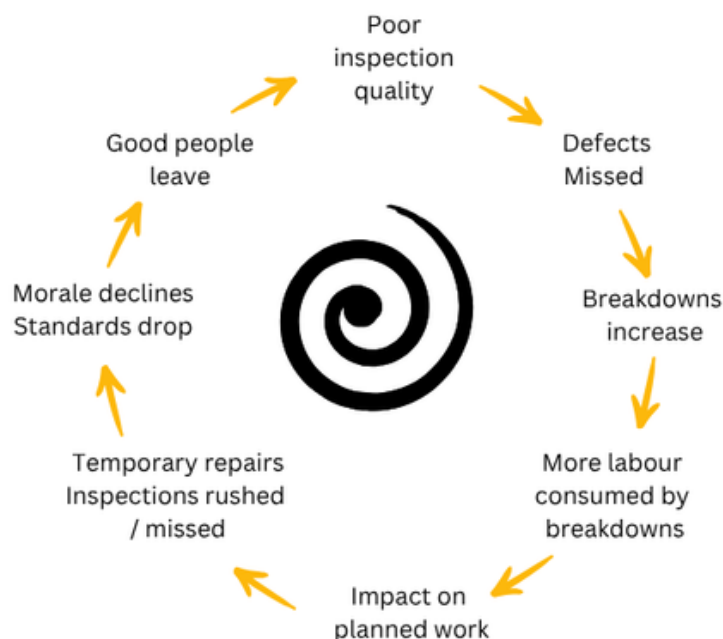
Extract from: **Tactical Planning for Mobile Equipment** microlearning course

Today's condition monitoring technologies have seen a significant focus on the use of data so it's all too easy to neglect inspection quality—a foundational practice that often gets overlooked.

Why Inspection Quality Matters

Poor inspection quality can lead to missed defects, unplanned failures, and lead to a reactive maintenance cycle that's hard to escape—consuming more labour, time, and cost than a well-planned maintenance program.

A strong inspection process is your foundation for ensuring reliability and performance.



Symptoms of Poor Inspection Quality

If your fleet shows any of the following, it could be a warning sign:

- Rising breakdown frequency, Declining MTBF or availability
- Frequent interruptions to planned work, Low PM compliance
- Persistent labour shortages

Continuous Improvement Idea

Evaluating Inspection Quality

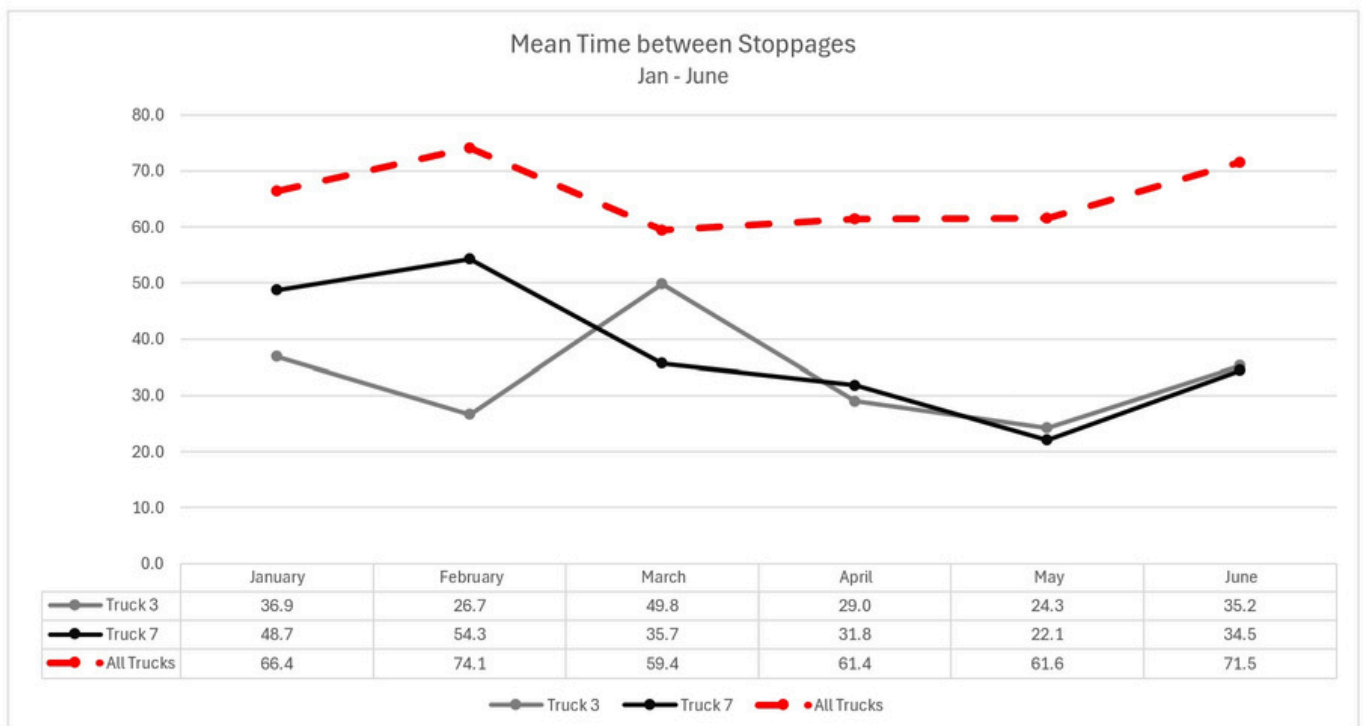
Actions

Step 1: Spot the Underperformers

Action: Trend MTBF by equipment and start with the worst offenders

Why it Helps: Targeting high-impact machines delivers fast wins

Note: if you don't have this data, just pick on a machine that has more breakdowns than the rest. There is usually at least one problem child.



Truck 3 and 7 consistently under the fleet MTBF average

Continuous Improvement Idea

Evaluating Inspection Quality

Actions

Step 2: Audit During a PM

Action: Create a dedicated, high-priority audit work order

Why it Helps: Sets focus and priority on thorough inspection

Note: Leaders should communicate the importance of these audits and the need to be thorough.



Continuous Improvement Idea

Evaluating Inspection Quality

Actions

Step 3: Enhance Your Checklist

Action: Add checks for known recurring issues. Include photos for clarity

Why it Helps: Makes your checklist current, actionable and visual

TIP: a picture is worth a thousand words

Take photos of defects and failures and use them as a visual guide on what to look for.



Continuous Improvement Idea

Evaluating Inspection Quality

Actions

Step 4: Apply a Second Set of Eyes

Action: Assign a top technician or even the OEM to conduct the audit

Why it Helps: A fresh eyes can catch what routine inspection misses



Continuous Improvement Idea

Evaluating Inspection Quality

Actions

Step 5: Cross-Check with Your System

Action: Compare audit-detected defects with those recorded in your Maintenance Management System

Why it Helps: Reveals missed defect and systemic under-reporting

TIP: a planner can't plan repairs for defect that aren't captured

Defects Found during Audit	Defect recorded in MMS
Defect 1	✓
Defect 2	✗
Defect 3	✗
Defect 4	✓
Defect 5	✗
Defect 6	✗

Continuous Improvement Idea

Evaluating Inspection Quality

Actions

Step 6: Take Action & Drill Down

Action: Use a 5-Why methods to find root causes and involve your team

Why it Helps: Drives systemic improvement and accountability

1. Problem Description					
2. Root Cause Analysis					
Why Made?	Why 1	Why 2	Why 3	Why 4	Why 5
Why Not Detected?	Why 1	Why 2	Why 3	Why 4	Why 5
3. Containment Action		Who	When		
Why Made?					
Why Made?					
Why Not Detected?					
4. Permanent Countermeasure		Who	When		
Why Made?					
Why Made?					
Why Not Detected?					

Continuous Improvement Idea

Evaluating Inspection Quality

Next Steps

This isn't a one-time task—it's the start of a culture shift.

- Reinforces inspection as a critical reliability tool
- Reveals hidden defects before failure
- Helps prevent slipping into reactive maintenance

Save Time



Save Money



Get the Implementation Playbook

- Continuous Improvement Idea Playbook
- Playbook Action Plan
- Visible Leader Communication Pack
 - email template: audit program introduction
 - email template: importance of quality inspections
 - presentation: importance of quality inspections
- MTBF Trend workbook with instructions
- Top Problems Inspection template
- Defect Cross-Check template
- 5 Why's template
- 5 Why's guidebook with instructions

Ready to explore how we can help your team?
Let's schedule a quick call.

Book Now