



## DID YOU KNOW?

According to a recent report from Barclays, 27 per cent of surveyed manufacturers stated that energy supply is more of a concern now than at the start of 2016. What's more is that rising energy prices are a grave concern for 75 per cent of manufacturers, and nearly half stated that they are financially vulnerable to increased energy costs. For help cutting energy bills in manufacturing operations, [click here](#) for British Gas' free guide.

## 7 Ways to Boost Productivity in 2017

With 2017 underway, your organisation may be considering ways to boost productivity. Whether you already have a list of planned objectives or if you are still thinking of your goals, here are seven beneficial practices that you may want to implement:

- 1. Prioritise ethics and transparency across your entire organisation.** Examine your business practices and supply chain to identify any unethical or environmentally harmful practices. Remedy any you find and adopt a position of transparency to avoid penalties and ensure that you have the support of your stakeholders and the public.
- 2. Collaborate with your suppliers.** Foster a rapport with your suppliers to bolster communication, stability, flexibility and to potentially receive a better rate.
- 3. Invest in information management.** With a robust information management system, your organisation can identify and improve areas of your business that are disorganised and inefficient.
- 4. Transition away from pencil and paper.** Whilst it may be a time-consuming process, transferring your files to digital will allow your company to become more efficient and reduce the number of errors.
- 5. Reorganise your supply chains to make them more agile.** Regularly review your supply chain to ensure that it is as efficient as possible.
- 6. Provide ongoing training for employees.** Your employees should never stop learning. Help them stay productive by providing regular training on new methods and tools.
- 7. Conduct regular efficiency inspections.** Take a thorough inspection of each department and manufacturing process to identify whether it could be streamlined.

## The Importance of Engineering Inspections

Engineering inspections are a crucial part of risk management and legal compliance. In addition to protecting your employees from injuries and death and shielding your organisation from fines and prosecutions, inspections help ensure that your machinery and plant remains in better working condition for longer and that recurring equipment problems can be identified early and addressed to avoid potentially costly downtime.

To ensure that your organisation's equipment and machinery is safe and effective, consider applying these periodicities of inspection:

- **Electrical and mechanical** – At least every 12 months
- **Power press** – Generally every six months
- **Lift and crane** – Generally every six months
- **Pressure plant** – Generally every 12 months
- **Local exhaust ventilation plant** – On average, every 14 months

If you would like more information about performing engineering inspections, review the British Engineering Services' guide, which can be found by clicking [here](#).

## The Importance of Regular Maintenance and Engineering Inspections



Machines and tools were the  
**MOST COMMONLY REPORTED  
WORKPLACE RISK,**  
and  
**1 in 5 fatal workplace injuries**  
over the last five years was due to  
**CONTACT WITH MACHINERY.**

Source: European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) and HSE



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