

Risk Assessment

Although plastic machinery may be operating, it doesn't mean that there is not a significant risk to extended downtime. The following is a means of measuring risk and determining the urgency of your need for an upgrade:

Answer the following Questions

| | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Is the extruder more than 20 years old? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the manufacturer of the extruder no longer exist or been purchased by another company? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the manufacturer of the control system consider it obsolete and no longer available? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are any of the components used in the control system considered obsolete? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are some portions of your extruder control non-operational? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the control system use an obsolete Windows operating system? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you using eBay as one of your suppliers? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Has the door ever been left open with a fan blowing in the enclosure? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Has there been any undocumented changes to the extruder control system? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is your control wiring outside wire ducts making troubleshooting difficult? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the extruder control system contain mercury relays? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Has the screw ever been damaged because an operator started into a cold zone? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Has there been a run-away heater condition that caused damage or downtime? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there DC Drives and Motors in use on the extruder? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you experienced more than 3 days of unscheduled downtime because of a maintenance issue? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does someone come in early to pre-heat the extruder? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is process data collected by hand? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Total Number of "Yes" Answers _____

| <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | | <i>High</i> | | | <i>Very High</i> | | | |
|------------|---------------|---|-------------|---|---|------------------|---|---|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9+ |

Low Risk = Your need is not urgent

Medium Risk = You have a need and should start the planning process

High Risk = Your need is urgent and you should try to upgrade your line within the next few months

Very High = Your need is critical and you should upgrade your line immediately