

Maintenance

Best Practices for Maintenance Management

HOW TO

Biobased solutions for added safety in the shop

By Mike Guggenheimer, Vice President, Business Development, RSC Bio Solutions

Safety considerations are just as important in the shop as they are out in the field. In fact, the confined environment of the shop can make small incidents turn into bigger problems.

Conventional chemical products often have ingredients that are irritating to the skin, and in some cases can result in a serious burn. Even inhaling the products' vapors in a tight space can be a health concern that requires the use of protective equipment.

The hazards of conventional chemical products extend beyond contact with the fleet worker, as they can be highly flammable or combustible. These products often require special storage and handling and present additional risks to the vehicle maintenance operation.

Biobased solutions offer options for the workers using them that reduce the hazards associated with many conventional products. Despite the

persistent myth that there is a trade-off in performance when using non-hazardous chemicals, advanced biobased products are engineered to work effectively for even the toughest applications.

SPECIAL FORMULATIONS

There are a variety of cleaners, degreasers and lubricants formulated for high-performance applications and designed to work alongside traditional, petroleum-based products without compromise. These products are often readily-biodegradable, limiting the impact on the environment if there is a spill and do not contain any harsh ingredients that would irritate the skin or damage sensitive surfaces.

The products have low or no volatile organic content (VOC) so there's little or no impact on ground level air quality, and high flashpoints make them safer to store and handle.

Using a non-hazardous cleaner like Gunk powered by SafeCare Truck and Equipment

Wash, for example, will clean a fleet as well as conventional cleaners while mitigating the risk of fines from a spill or exposure in the environment.

Biobased lubricants have also been improved to the point that they can go head-to-head with conventional products in terms of performance. Some lubricants, like the Liquid Wrench powered by EnviroLogic brand biobased penetrating oil delivers industry-leading performance, loosening rusted and stuck nuts and bolts with the enhanced safety benefits of a non-hazardous and readily-biodegradable formula.

When you consider all of the ways biobased technology can reduce risk and eliminate hazards, it is like a cheap insurance policy.

Mike Guggenheimer is vice president of business development for RSC Bio Solutions, a company focused on providing high-performance chemistries that are safe, non-hazardous and environmentally responsible. www.rscbio.com.

Shops with good safety policies and systems outperform others in terms of productivity and financial performance

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Shop organization and routine maintenance and upkeep are important aspects for improving safety, reducing accident-related costs and making operations more efficient.

WHAT TYPE OF MAINTENANCE OPERATION ARE YOU RUNNING?

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