Whitepaper

From lubrication tasks to lubrication control

A practical route to standardise lubrication, extend intervals and create audit-ready digital records with limited resources

INTERFLON

Who this is for

- Maintenance managers
- Reliability engineers
- Maintenance technicians
- QA and HSE (secondary: contamination control, safe execution, audit readiness records

The problem: why lubrication drifts under resource pressure

When maintenance capacity is tight, lubrication is often one of the first disciplines to drift. Tasks are delayed, points are missed and execution varies between people and shifts. The consequences are predictable: accelerated wear, more interventions and a higher risk of unplanned downtime.
The goal is control: standardised execution, fewer manual touchpoints and audit-ready digital records of what was planned, what was done and what needs follow-up. In practice, this makes lubrication measurable, manageable and sustainable even under resource pressure.

This whitepaper summarises five levers that help regain control:

1. Standardised lubricant selection (starting with critical points)
2. Targeted automation with single point lubricators
3. Clean-before-lube standards
4. Tools and application methods that reduce errors and contamination risk
5. Digital process control and audit-ready digital records

This is not about “more lubrication work”. It is about reducing lubrication variability and achieving reliable outcomes with fewer manual actions and better control.

What “good” looks like

An effective lubrication programme under sustained resource pressure focuses on outcomes that can be maintained:

- longer lubrication intervals without compromising reliability
- fewer manual touchpoints, especially where access is difficult or safety-critical
- cleaner lubrication points, reducing contamination-driven wear
- standardised methods and tools that reduce variability between people and shifts
- audit-ready digital records that support control, learning and continuous improvement
- alignment with recognised lubrication management system requirements (for example ICML 55.1)

For many organisations, these outcomes also support broader goals: lower maintenance workload, more stable output and stronger compliance.

Measuring impact (pilot KPIs)
Define 3–6 KPIs and capture a baseline for the selected scope. Typical KPIs include task compliance (on-time, missed/late, deviations), lubrication man-hours, lubrication-related interventions/failures, downtime minutes (lost production time), lubricant consumption and lubricant waste (where tracked). Where data is available, include condition monitoring findings, average operating temperature, energy consumption and relevant environmental metrics (e.g., CO_2).

The five levers (overview)

1) Standardise lubricant selection, prioritise critical points first

Every lubrication point should receive the right lubricant for its duty conditions. In practice, the fastest reliability gains come from addressing critical points first (the Pareto principle) – where consequences are highest and conditions are most severe (load, shock, water, temperature extremes, persistent contamination).
Interflon lubricants are designed for demanding duty conditions and continuous operation environments. Interflon's MicPol® technology forms a durable lubrication film that supports:

- reduced friction between moving surfaces
- improved film persistence under harsh conditions (for example water exposure, contamination and shock loads)
- resilience during cold starts and intermittent boundary lubrication conditions
- extended relubrication intervals in many applications, depending on duty conditions and contamination control

Practical guidance:

- identify critical points by consequence of failure, not by lubricant volume
- match selection to load, speed, temperature, environment (water, chemicals, dust) and contamination profile
- standardise wherever possible to reduce the error rate (fewer lubricants, clearer rules)

2) Replace high-effort manual tasks with single point lubricators where it pays back

Manual lubrication consumes time and introduces variability. Under pressure, points can be missed, quantities can drift and work can be executed unsafely. Targeted automation helps maintain consistency

Interflon Single Point Lubricators can reduce manual lubrication workload and variability when correctly specified and maintained.

Single point lubricators tend to deliver the most value where points are:

- hard to reach (height, machine guarding, unsafe access)
- exposed to washdown, water or contamination
- high temperature or high load
- frequently lubricated or often forgotten
- only serviceable by stopping equipment

Define up front: delivery rate rules, inspection/refill routines, identification/change control and how deviations are recorded.

3) Clean-before-lube to reduce contamination-driven failures

Lubrication on a contaminated surface can trap dirt and create an abrasive paste. That accelerates wear and can shorten intervals.
Clean-before-lube should be standard practice, especially for exposed applications and critical points:

- remove built-up grime and corrosion products where they block penetration
- reduce the risk of carrying contamination into grease points or chain interfaces
- improve film attachment and persistence

Select cleaning methods that fit the contamination present and support safe handling, compatible materials and consistent execution.
QA and HSE note: clean-before-lube supports contamination control and aligns with hygiene and safety objectives, provided site procedures and chemical handling rules are followed.

4) Use tools and methods that reduce errors and contamination risk

Application tools influence reliability directly. Common failure modes include misalignment at grease points, contamination introduced via dirty tools or open containers, unclear identification and inconsistent quantities.
Tools and methods that typically help include:

- sealed dispensing and controlled delivery systems
- high-integrity couplers to improve alignment and reduce spillage
- clean cartridge-based grease delivery to reduce handling errors and improve identification
- controlled surface applicators for consistent, clean application

The Interflon G-Coupler keeps the grease nipple clean and ensures that the grease enters the nipple.

The objective is clean, repeatable work at the point of use, with less variability between people and shifts.

5) Control the process digitally and create audit-ready digital records

If lubrication is not controlled as a process, it becomes a collection of tasks. Under pressure, that leads to inconsistency and limited learning.
Digital process control helps standardise execution and create audit-ready digital records by documenting what was planned, what was executed and what requires follow-up.
Interflon Lubrication And Control (ILAC®) is one example that supports standardised lubrication and first-line maintenance by embedding:

- clear work instructions and standard methods
- planning and scheduling
- execution logging
- deviation and remark capture
- continuous improvement through data and review routines

QA and HSE note: digital records can support audit readiness by showing what was planned, what was executed, what deviations occurred and how they were addressed.

Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (Dongen) — Full delivery (LaaS®)

Situation
Unplanned downtime had a direct production impact at the Coca-Cola Europacific Partners plant in Dongen, operating with tight scheduling constraints.

Approach
Interflon-managed lubrication rounds executed to plan, supported by audit-ready digital records and a single point of contact for lubricants, stock management and reporting.

Outcome (defined scope)
Up to 40% structural time and cost savings in lubrication maintenance
Approximately 80% reduction in lubricant consumption in selected applications
Improved audit transparency (“what was used, when and why”), based on baseline measurement and after-data review

Figures based on site baseline measurement and after-data review for the defined scope and period.

Full story and video

Delivery models: choose the level of support

The same control principles can be delivered in different ways depending on your site's resources, asset criticality and compliance requirements:

- **In-house implementation:** your team executes standard methods, tools and documentation (Interflon can support with selection, training and guidance).
- **Supported implementation:** your team executes daily work, Interflon provides periodic technical review and coaching.
- **Hybrid models:** standards and methods agreed up front, supported by audit-ready digital records; execution shared or phased, often starting with critical or hard-to-reach points.
- **Full delivery (Lubrication as a Service, LaaS®):** Interflon delivers execution as a managed service, including planning, performance review and audit-ready documentation.

Next step: pilot, then scale

Start with one defined scope (one line, one asset group, or one high-risk area). Apply the five levers, establish audit-ready digital records and review 3–6 KPIs vs baseline to scale what works.

For the step-by-step implementation checklist, pilot templates and minimum digital record standard, use the companion playbook.

Or contact us to talk to a Technical Advisor.

http://www.interflon.com