

“Due to bearing damage, a machine axle was broken. A new part had to be ordered from an overseas supplier.”

Machines and equipment can break down at any point, sometimes at the least convenient time. Broken parts can be vital to a machine's operations and could be difficult to replace.

A lack of spare parts or poor servicing of machines and equipment can cause disruption to your business. Neglecting to monitor the condition of equipment could result in interruptions to production, or it could impair the quality of the final product.

Tips

- To prevent equipment failures and for safety, make sure machines and equipment are used only for the purpose for which they were designed, and that they don't exceed the permitted load or capacity.
- Well-implemented, planned and preventive maintenance and stocks of essential spare parts increase the reliability and lifespan of machines, as does monitoring conditions during use.
- Don't rely on the expertise of one person to carry out essential servicing of machines and equipment. And for your most important machines, make sure you have service agreements for servicing and spare parts.
- If you need subcontractors to service your machines, or to fit and replace parts, make sure you make arrangements before there's a problem.

Useful links

Health and Safety Executive – Simple guide to the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg291.pdf

Health and Safety Executive – Work equipment and machinery
www.hse.gov.uk/equipment/index.htm