

The Problem with Paper Logbooks

Are you happy with just part of the picture?



Fact:

Paper logbooks are not searchable, flexible, clear or consistent!

On every industrial site, there is a stream of operations, maintenance and safety events occurring at all levels and areas within the process. Unfortunately, there are still tedious and time-consuming methods, such as paper, being used to log these events. This increases organisational risk and inefficiencies.

57% of paper logbook users admit they have no method of tracking operations procedures.

“Operations Processes at Your Plant” Survey

October 2019

With the constant advancement of IT technology over the decades, paper logbooks have become obsolete. Additionally, the use of inadequate data collection methods, such as paper logbooks, has contributed to cause catastrophic industrial accidents.

There is a host of compelling reasons to reconsider the use of paper logbooks in an industrial site, as outlined below.

Lack of visibility

With paper logbooks, information is isolated, and it is impossible to know what is happening across the plant. When a safety-critical event happens, crucial data is not available unless the logger verbally speaks to colleagues or shows them the actual record they wrote. This may lead to missing vital follow-up actions and to potential hazards.

Tedious data search

Paper logbooks are usually filed away in folders, filing cabinets and archives, making the process of finding specific information a laborious task. Daily paper logbooks mount up quickly over the months and years, leading to high paper, printing and storage costs — especially because they must be kept for compliance purposes.

Zero interfacing

Due to their static and offline nature, paper logbooks have no interfaces with other plant IT systems, such as Data Historians, the CMMS and many more. This means that personnel must manually record data from other IT systems. Not having seamless access to this information can have a serious impact on efficiency, production and safety.

Poor weather resistance

Industrial sites are often situated in extreme environments, and paper is not renowned for its wind and rain resistance. It can be incredibly frustrating to write on a piece of paper that is flapping about in the wind or covered in rain droplets. Bad weather conditions can quickly make information illegible.

65% of paper logbook users rely on personnel to find key shift information.

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Considering all the problems arising from the use of paper logbooks, it is a key requirement of every industrial site to digitally transform this crucial aspect of day-to-day operations.

Inconsistent event logging

With paper logbooks, there is no pre-defined entry structure, which can cause confusion. Inconsistent data entries become the norm, leading to inefficient reporting. Paper encourages short-hand writing, which can make information illegible and may not respect layout, categorization or hierarchies.

Cumbersome attachments

Using paper logbooks means that attaching additional information becomes a chore. Old-school office stationery — such as staples, glue, elastic bands and paper clips — is the only way to attach photographs, reports and other data to paper logbooks.







j5 Operations Logbook

j5 Operations Management Software is one evolving framework of operations management and process safety applications connecting people and processes.

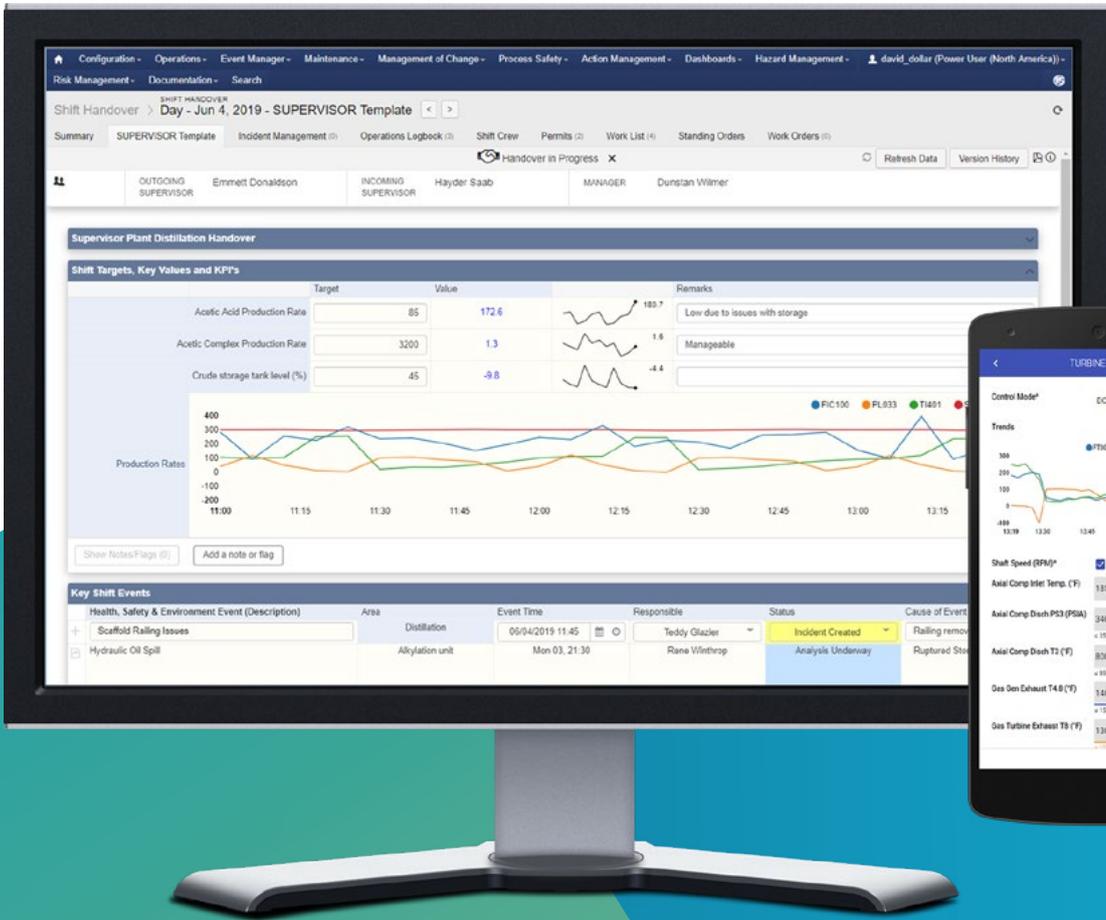
The j5 Operations Logbook application is used by many large multinational organizations to record, manage and view any event in a consistent and efficient way with a web browser and mobile devices.

The j5 Operations Logbook provides immediate benefits to operations personnel and other departments, such as maintenance and safety. A digital logbook can, in fact, grow into a powerful communications tool across multiple disciplines and sites.



It has become an essential tool. Managers now have the ability to issue night orders, standing orders and new procedures and then have the ability to see that their direct report received and acknowledged.”

Plant Manager
Calpine



The following are just a handful of the key benefits reported by users of the j5 Operations Logbook



Full visibility

With the j5 Operations Logbook, information is no longer confined to the control room. It is, in fact, made available directly to everyone in the plant, including to authorized personnel other than the operations department.

Multi-user entry and access allow more people to contribute to the information-recording process — especially with mobile devices, providing an immediate boost in plant personnel coordination.



Immediate finding of data

Functionalities like single-click filters, Boolean buttons and search engines allow users of the j5 Operations Logbook to find information quickly. This saves an enormous amount of time compared to older data recording methods, such as using paper.

Crucially, operators don't have to navigate through filing cabinets and complex folder systems to find the information they need.

Interfacing to other plant systems

The j5 Operations Logbook can read and write data automatically from other systems such as the DCS, SCADA, the CMMS, Data Historians and LIMS. This provides operators with a single user interface for maintenance information, real-time data and many other useful information sources. The j5 Operations Logbook also interfaces with the OSIsoft® PI System®, Wonderware by AVEVA, Aspen InfoPlus.21® (IP.21), SAP PM, SAP HR and IBM Maximo.

Consolidated and centralized platform

A single web server allows personnel across multiple sites to access the j5 Operations Logbook. This saves time and financial costs, allowing customers to allocate more resources to operate their plants. The disruptive j5 IndustraForm® Templates technology makes configuring j5 Shift Handover intuitive, thanks to a familiar spreadsheet-like environment.



j5 Shift Operations Management has given greater visibility of ongoing issues and given us a consistent and accountable handover tool.”

Ant Tyler

Systems Operations Compliance Manager, Thames Water



Section 1 Permit Instructions and Base Information

Submitted

Aug 8, 2017 2:23 PM Admin User

Permit Title	Weld Header section where leak
Permit No	HP114
Preparer	Admin User
Recipient	Admin Emout
Type	Hot Work
Status	Open
Priority	Medium
Create Time	Tue 8, 3:22 PM
Equipment	12-TK-101
Isolation Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Diving Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Confined Space Entry	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Safety Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Critical Lift Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Job Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Gas Tests	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Isolations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Other Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

REVISE



Excellent flexibility

The j5 Operations Logbook allows users to attach items with a couple of clicks or directly from a camera, increasing productivity and saving sore fingers. Users can also attach photographs, videos and notes to entries on a mobile device with j5 Mobility. Furthermore, the j5 IndustraForm Templates capability to transform troublesome paper forms into enterprise-level applications brings the flexibility of the system to another level.

Event logging compliance

Information within the j5 Operations Logbook is easy to read, highlights “out of specification” entries and is color-coded and formatted. Additionally, the j5 Operations Logbook guarantees that critical fields are completed, checks spelling and eliminates double data-entry. This means that users can quickly locate information of interest and understand it without having to decipher inconsistent scrawls.



The introduction of j5 Operations Management Software at INPEX helped improve and enhance operation management efficiency. The platform has contributed to the efficient and stable operation of INPEX assets. Information is standardized, accurate and easier to retrieve.”

Jinsei Li

General Manager, Information Management & Technology Unit, INPEX



Hexagon is a global leader in sensor, software and autonomous solutions. We are putting data to work to boost efficiency, productivity, and quality across industrial, manufacturing, infrastructure, safety, and mobility applications.

Our technologies are shaping urban and production ecosystems to become increasingly connected and autonomous — ensuring a scalable, sustainable future.

Hexagon's PPM division empowers its clients to transform unstructured information into a smart digital asset to visualize, build and manage structures and facilities of all complexities, ensuring safe and efficient operation throughout the entire lifecycle.

Hexagon (Nasdaq Stockholm: HEXA B) has approximately 21,000 employees in 50 countries and net sales of approximately 3.9bn EUR. Learn more at [hexagon.com](https://www.hexagon.com) and follow us @HexagonAB.