



# Ten Reasons Why You Shouldn't Use Paper Logbooks

With the constant advancement of IT technology over the decades, paper logbooks are becoming increasingly obsolete. Solutions such as the j5 Operations Logbook allow users to share and find key information quickly, consistently and easily.

Here are **ten reasons why you shouldn't use paper logbooks.**



For more information on j5 Operations Management Solutions, please visit

[www.hexagonppm.com](http://www.hexagonppm.com)

## 1. Key Information Is Difficult to Find

On every industrial site it is very important that real-time information is readily available to all personnel. Paper logbooks are usually filed away in folders, filing cabinets and archives, making the process of finding specific information a laborious task. Searching for key operations information can be like finding a needle in a haystack, which is unacceptable in the digital age of process safety.

## 2. Illegible Handwriting

We all write in different ways and sometimes the writer is the only person who can recognise the information clearly. Paper logbooks encourage short-hand and untidy writing, which is often due to the busy schedule of the logger. Inconsistencies become the norm, and illegible information is as useful as no information.

## 3. Inconsistent Logging and Reporting

A thesaurus proves that there are often many names for the same thing. With paper logbooks there is no pre-defined entry structure, which can cause confusion. Consistent data entry leads to efficient reporting, and none of these is possible with paper logs. An electronic logbook allows for consistent layouts, categorization, hierarchies, reports, data entry and many other features.

## 4. Poor Weather Resistance

Industrial sites are often situated in extreme environments, such as blustery North Sea oil platforms. Paper is not renowned for its wind and rain resistance. As a result, it is extremely 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. Electronic mobile logging devices are much more robust and practical in these situations.

## 5. No Workflow Capabilities

When an industrial event is recorded on a paper logbook, the information trail often ends there, unless the logger verbally speaks to colleagues or shows them the actual record they wrote. Follow-up actions are missed with paper logbooks, leading to potential hazards.

Digital systems such as j5 Operator Rounds share information, assign tasks and send alerts in real-time.

## 6. No Standard Operating Procedures

When information is recorded on a paper logbook, there is no indication of what the logger should do next. Using j5 IndustraForm® Templates, personnel can be taken through a step-by-step checklist of plant procedures. These procedures can be divided into sections, which can be approved by managers and / or supervisors when necessary. Increasing awareness and management or corrective actions across the operations teams.

## 7. Zero Interfacing with Plant IT Systems

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 error-prone personnel must manually record data from other IT systems. j5 Operations Management Software interfaces with the OSIsoft® PI System®, Wonderware® Historian, Aspen InfoPlus.21 (IP.21), SAP® PM, SAP HR and IBM Maximo.

## 8. High Printing and Storage Costs

Daily paper logbooks mount up quickly over the months and years. This leads to high paper, printing and storage costs, especially because they must be kept for regulatory and compliance reasons. Electronic logbooks store this information on a computer server, eliminating all the above costs.

## 9. Low Flexibility and Customization

Changing paper logbook templates can be an arduous and frustrating task. Over the life of an industrial site there are many changes to the process, meaning that data collection methods must adapt. This leads to many different types of paper logbooks which need to be tailored individually and shared across sites.

j5 Operations Management Solutions allow users to create and modify j5 IndustraForm Templates quickly and globally.

## 10. Attaching Information Is Cumbersome

Using paper logbooks means that attaching additional information becomes a chore. Old-school office stationery such as staples, glue, elastic bands and paper clips are the only ways to attach photographs, reports and other additional information to paper logbooks. Computer based digital logbook solutions allow users to attach items with a couple of clicks or directly from a camera. This saves time, money and sore fingers.

## About Hexagon

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.

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 20,000 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.