Dairy Mechanical Maintenance Technician

Dairy engineering and maintenance

Job title	Dairy Mechanical Maintenance Technician
Department	Dairy engineering and maintenance
Reports to	Maintenance Team Leader
Direct reports	None
Location	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*
Contract type	*[Permanent / fixed-term / other]*
Salary and benefits	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*

Job purpose

Maintains and repairs mechanical plant across a dairy processing site, including pumps, valves, heat exchangers, conveyors, dryers, packing lines and mobile equipment. Completes planned maintenance and breakdown work safely and on time so the plant stays available and food safe.

Key responsibilities

Planned maintenance

- Carry out preventive maintenance on mechanical equipment across utilities, processing, drying, packing and mobile plant
- Complete routine service tasks at every interval on schedule
- Service pumps, valves, gearboxes, bearings, seals, compressors and heat exchangers
- Carry out lubrication routines and condition checks
- Record work, findings and parts used accurately in the CMMS

Breakdowns and repairs

- Respond quickly to breakdowns and get plant running again safely
- Diagnose mechanical faults and repair or replace failed components
- Carry out fabrication, alignment and pipework repairs to hygienic standards
- Identify repeat failures and propose permanent fixes
- Take part in the on-call or shift breakdown rota

Improvement and spares

- Report stock levels and usage of critical mechanical spares
- Suggest and help deliver plant and process improvements
- Install and commission new equipment and modifications
- Support planned shutdowns and major overhauls

Food safety and quality

- Follow HACCP, good manufacturing practice and hygiene rules when working in production areas

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- Control tools, parts and materials to prevent foreign body contamination
- Use only food-grade lubricants and approved parts on product contact equipment
- Hand equipment back to production clean and ready for use

Health, safety and compliance

- Apply isolation, lockout and permit-to-work procedures on every job
- Follow safe systems of work for confined spaces, work at height and lifting operations
- Help with contractor inductions and permits
- Report hazards, near misses and compliance risks promptly
- Support environmental controls on effluent and emissions

Qualifications and experience

Essential

- Recognised mechanical trade qualification, such as fitter or millwright, or equivalent
- Experience maintaining mechanical equipment in a manufacturing or process plant
- Fault-finding experience on pumps, gearboxes, conveyors and pneumatic systems
- Experience using a CMMS
- Understanding of food safety and hygiene standards in food manufacture

Desirable

- Dairy or food processing experience
- Welding qualification, including stainless steel TIG welding
- Experience maintaining forklift trucks or other mobile plant
- Knowledge of hydraulics, steam or refrigeration systems

Skills and attributes

- Practical mechanical problem solving
- Safe working and attention to detail
- Teamwork with production and electrical staff
- Clear record keeping
- Staying calm under pressure during breakdowns
- Willingness to learn new equipment and methods

Measures of success

- Planned maintenance completed on time
- Breakdown response and repair times
- Fewer repeat mechanical failures
- Accurate and complete CMMS records
- No safety incidents or food safety breaches caused by maintenance work

Working conditions and safety

Hands-on, site-based role in a food production environment, including manual handling, work at height and in confined spaces, with PPE and hygiene controls. Usually includes shift work or an on-call breakdown rota.

- Follow health and safety rules and safe systems of work, and wear the correct PPE
- Follow food safety, hygiene, HACCP and quality procedures at all times
- Report hazards, accidents, near misses and concerns promptly

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This job description outlines the main duties of the role. It is not a complete list, and the employer may update it as the business changes, in consultation with the jobholder.

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