

As businesses across the globe resume operations following COVID-19 shutdowns, it is important to understand the technical challenges that will surface once an attempt is made to start production. In numerous industries, equipment remains continuously powered on. Many consider powering off equipment a “nightmare” scenario because what typically follows is a problematic start-up.

Following an extended shutdown, standard equipment maintenance guidelines must be followed, and in the current scenario, an introduction of disinfecting agents and their impact on equipment must be considered.

AREPA offers services to help carriers address equipment claims.

ANALYTICAL SURFACE CONTAMINATION TESTING POST-DISINFECTION VIA FOGGING

Equipment can be divided into two categories: high-touch surfaces and circuitry that does not get touched unless it is being maintained or repaired.

- AREPA harvests analytical wipe samples to determine if disinfecting agents that settled on sensitive electronic modules are benign or corrosive. While hand wiping disinfection techniques control the spread of chemicals containing chlorine and hydrogen peroxide, as examples, fogging will cause these chemicals to penetrate and settle on electronic circuitry that is susceptible to deterioration.
- Published Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) studies have shown that electronic equipment will corrode over time and functionally fail as a result of exposure to disinfecting fumigants¹.

DECONTAMINATION & RECONDITIONING OF EQUIPMENT, ELECTRONICS & ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

- AREPA employs professional decontamination techniques to mitigate sensitive equipment deterioration within complex technical installations. AREPA ensures that post-decontamination, equipment will meet published industry standards² that are adhered to by original equipment manufacturers.
- AREPA facilitates testing, repairs and recalibration.

1. EPA/600/R-14/316, September 2014, Assessment of the impact of decontamination fumigants on electronic equipment.
2. IPC J-STD-001G Requirements for soldered electrical and electronic assemblies.