



Don't Forget the Walk Around

Believe it: Visual inspection of plant equipment is one of the most useful tools available. A good set of eyes and the ability to see subtle changes in equipment is invaluable. For over two decades, PdM (Predictive Maintenance) technicians use best practices to walk around equipment seeing, smelling, and listening before they open their PdM toolbox and begin an infrared, ultrasonic, or vibration inspection. A new drip pattern on the floor, a change in sound, or the smell of burning or a chemical can signal a developing problem.

When optimizing the PdM program, you are visually inspecting the condition of MCC (Motor Control Center) cabinets regularly, to make sure nothing has deteriorated, no tooling left behind, and pests have not made the cabinet their new home.

When the cabinet is open, it is a best practice to take a digital photo to document and provide reference points for your IR (Infrared) survey. If the cabinet is not regularly inspected, failures can sneak up on you. It is not always as practical to de-energize a cabinet to perform a visual scan of components. Potential failures can be present within the cabinet but not show a change in their heat signature. You might assume that everything is within specifications, record your measurements and continue your route inspections. Where you have critical equipment, you need regular visual inspection to find problems such as wiring and insulation breakdown or annealing, install a visual inspection pane.

When you need visual inspection at the same time as your IR inspection, choose the IRISS CAP-V Series. The IRISS CAP series is designed to comply with the mandatory requirements of IEEE C37 20.0.a.3.6 and UL746C. The impact resistant clear poly carbonate lens in the CAP-V meets these impact, load and flammability requirements.



Plus, the IRISS CAP series are designed to capture both IR images and normal digital pictures at the same time, if your IR camera has this feature.

In industrial and high-traffic areas where the cabinets may take some abuse, IRISS provides steel covers (CAP-VC) for additional protection of IR and visual. If needed, IRISS can supply the IRISS CAP-VC series with locking protective covers for your IR window. This is used in areas of high traffic protecting the IR and visual viewing panes from impact, flying debris and dust. Standard hinged covers offer locking capabilities protecting the IR viewing panes are available for the entire CAP series. Because of the customization available in the IRISS CAP series, we have the CAP-VCH range to offer Protective covers for the IR inspection and visual viewing pane with a single door.

Do not ignore your senses when conducting PdM inspections of plant equipment. Trust your judgment. Head off problems before they become big. When you walk through the plant, create a heightened sense of awareness of what is going on around you. Be sensitive for anything that does not seem right. Rely on your senses as well as your PdM tools to inspect and diagnose equipment problems.