

Shelf-Life of Turbopumps with mechanical/greased bearings. May 12, 2005

Our official statement for grease lubricated Turbo pumps is the following:

If greased TMPs are not running for a long time (greater than 6 months) it is possible, that the grease gets thicker (so called post curing of the grease). Bearing friction will increase and under certain conditions (e.g. very cold pump) it could be possible, that run-up time exceeds the specified limit and the converter reports an error. It's also possible, that mixed friction occurs while running up the pump.

After a shelf time greater than 1 year, grease could be aged. After that time a sufficient lubrication film can not be guaranteed.

So, after idle times greater than 6 months LEYBOLD recommends to start up the pump for 1 minute, after this stop the pump and repeat it 5 times. After 1 year idle time the pump should be serviced by LEYBOLD.