



But My Work Orders are Different!

One of the first things that I hear when discussing maintenance work with clients is how “different” their work is from everybody else’s work. Things do vary from industry to industry and even site to site within a company. But, if you look deeper it varies area to area or department to department. However, as an outsider looking in it ALL looks like maintenance work to me.

Consider this, when you go into a shoe store you can find an almost endless supply of shoes that vary by style, size, color, widths, etc. But when you go to the register to purchase a pair; they are all in a very similar box, a shoe box! These boxes can be stacked, shipped, carried, rearranged and stocked in a variety of ways; yet they are easily handled and identified for what they are by any store employee.

Think of work (Work Orders) moving through your plant or facility. There are many different types; corrective, preventive, predictive, emergency, compliance, etc.; yet they all contain certain information and are packaged for easy identification and handling through your system, much like a shoe box.

Start thinking how your work orders flow through your plant, don’t overcomplicate things! Consider it all *Work*, just like it’s all *Shoes*. Define the details for each type and make it easy for your employees to identify