

Industrial Keyboards and Mice: Addressing Harsh Realities

Withstanding Environmental Abuse

Industrial and manufacturing workplaces are extremely challenging environments for computer peripherals. Dust, dirt, corrosive chemicals, and oils can penetrate keyboards and mice and wreak havoc. Most silicone keyboards have one big weakness: Oil. For years, oil has been the biggest “keyboard killer” of them all. If your crew works with substances like oil or grease, then an oil-resistant keyboard is a great solution. Engineered with a special additive to make this keyboard perfect for extreme temperatures and rugged environments. ¹



The types of activities, and processes that can cause damage to your existing IT equipment include the following:

- Bonding, coating, sealing and painting
- Machining processes involving aluminum, steel, magnesium, titanium, etc.
- CNC operations involving metal, acrylic, plastics, polycarbonate, and polyethylene

- Etching processes involving files, scrapers, varnish, and sandblasters
- Gas and Oil extraction activities, and associated diesel particulates, silica, and extreme temperatures.
- Semiconductor and wafer fabrication, and related chemicals, gases and metals
- Automotive manufacturing and repair, including hydraulic fluid, powders, resins, antifreeze, and dust
- Additive and 3D manufacturing, resulting in metal powders, aerosols and liquid hazards

Human Machine Interfaces: Why worry?



Human Machine Interface, often known by the acronym HMI, typically refers to a computer system in the manufacturing industry that translates complex data about machinery into useful information for the operator. Man & Machine offers 'Fit for Purpose' solutions to ensure your HMI remains operational. In the rugged environment water, fluids, dust and dirt have a way of clogging up sensitive computer and industrial systems.

The Cost of Downtime

It's a very simple equation. If your equipment isn't working, neither are you. That's why downtime is one of the biggest expenses incurred by any manufacturing operation. ⁱⁱ Man & Machine CEO, Clifton Broumand, commented that industrial customers have had to replace keyboards often because oils were destroying them, costing them a lot of money and production time. "They were practically begging us for an oil-resistant keyboard. Our engineers worked on a solution for over a year, and we are very proud to present the Really O'Cool keyboard".

It's important to perform a risk audit and evaluate how your computer peripherals factor into this risk. Are your keyboards fully sealed? Are they able to withstand dust, water, oily chemicals, antifreeze (ethylene glycol) ⁱⁱⁱ and abrasive cleaners? If your keyboard, mouse, or touchscreen goes down, what is the mitigation plan to minimize downtime? Our waterproof keyboards are seamless with no cracks, crevices or exposed moving parts, preventing dust, dirt or grime from getting inside. Our uni-body top was designed to ensure reliability in the dirtiest areas. Washing is a breeze with standard industrial cleaners or soap and water. And because the letters are laser etched, they will not rub off or become hard to read.

Man & Machine Solutions

The Really O'Cool ("ROC") was originally introduced in 2014 at the International Manufacturing Technology Show in Chicago. Manufactured in the same fashion as the highly successful ReallyCool, the "O" is for "oil-resistant". This keyboard is great for machine shops, production lines, part manufacturers; any place where oils, dirt or water is a problem. Man & Machine offers optional features such as MAGFIX attachment system for ferrous surfaces, and various lengths USB cables options. Private labeling for OEM applications is also available. Our premium keyboards and mice are fully sealed, IP 64 and IP 68 compliant, USB compatible, and work on Windows, MAC and Linux systems. Our peripherals come with a plethora of features that enable them to meet the rugged requirements of the industrial workplace.

Contact us now at 301.341.4900 and mention this whitepaper or visit our website (www.man-machine.com) for more information about our washable keyboards and mice, and disinfectable silicone drapes from Man & Machine.

Oliver Thompson, MPH
Health Minister at Man & Machine
oliver@mmimd.com

About Man & Machine

Man & Machine, Inc. is a privately held company founded in 1982 and located in Landover, Maryland. The company manufactures Medical Grade™ keyboards and mice for hospitals and healthcare applications that can be properly cleaned and disinfected to help prevent the spread of bacteria and infections. Man & Machine also installs privacy filters and vinyl wrapping for point-of-sale advertising and identification on LCD monitors. Man & Machine has offices in Buffalo, Chicago, Idaho, the Netherlands, Taiwan, and China.

ⁱ Industrial Keyboards & Mice. Man & Machine™ Washable Keyboards, Mice & Privacy Monitors. (2021, April 14).

ⁱⁱ Immerman, G., & Viorel, P. (2023, August 16). The Actual Cost of Downtime in the Manufacturing Industry. IIoT World.

ⁱⁱⁱ Antifreeze: The Ultimate Guide. Chem Group. (2020, March 18). <https://chem-group.com/antifreeze-the-ultimate-guide/>