SAP PM / 02

What Is SAP PM?

Lesson screens · Examples · Exercises

PURPOSE

Learn the maintenance process from reporting a problem to recording completed work. Use a packaging machine example to distinguish planned maintenance from breakdown work.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

1. Describe a maintenance need with useful information
2. Distinguish breakdown and preventive maintenance
3. Understand maintenance history and integration

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read the explanation, then inspect the related lesson screen. Try the exercises before looking at the answer key. Timestamps below images show the moment in the long lesson from which the frame was taken. Codes belong to the example system; your training environment may use different values.

01

Which problem does PM solve?



00:12 | Introduction to maintenance management.

PM stands for Plant Maintenance. With many machines and shifts, a company cannot rely only on phone calls to track maintenance. It needs shared records showing which asset has a problem, who plans the work, what was done and which resources were used. PM supports this organization. It covers more than broken machines: regular checks, maintenance planning and history are also important. In SAP S/4HANA materials, you may see this area under Asset Management. This lesson explains the basic business logic.

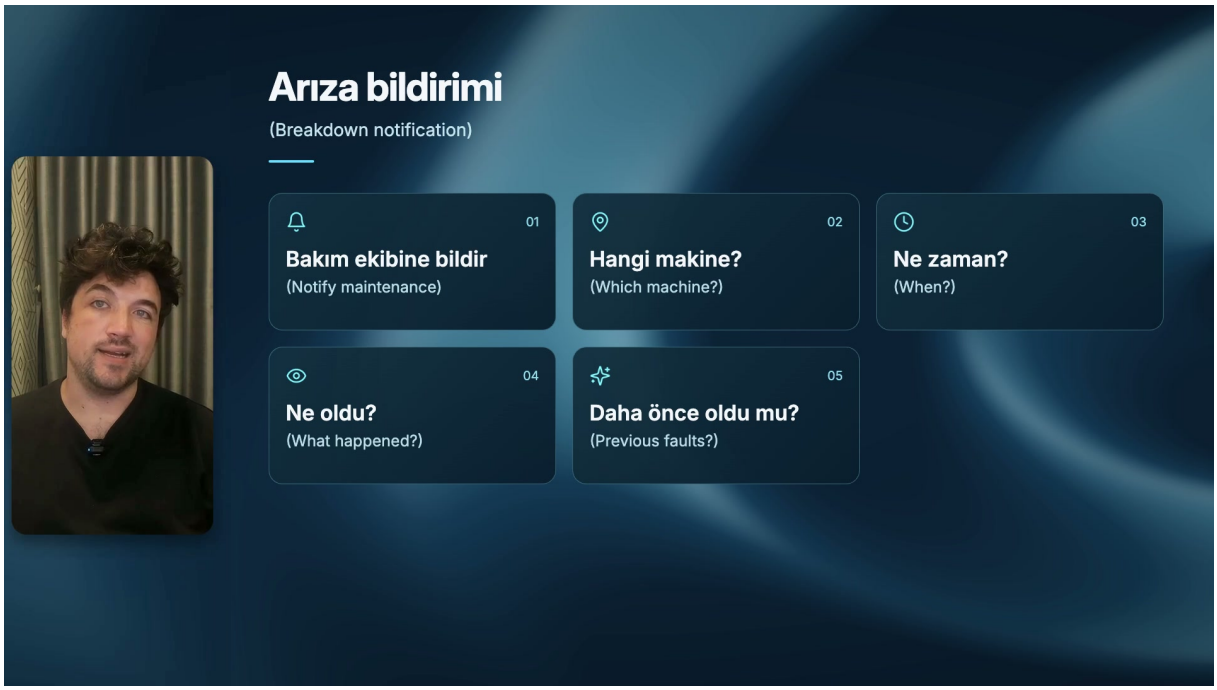
- Asset: the object being maintained
- Work: the activity to perform
- History: what happened and what was done?

REMEMBER

The aim is not only to close a breakdown, but to leave a maintenance record others can understand later.

02

How should we describe a breakdown?



00:51 | Key questions to answer when recording a breakdown.

When a packaging machine stops, “the machine is not working” is not enough. Identify the equipment, start time, observed symptom and impact on production. Do not present an unconfirmed diagnosis such as “the motor is broken” as a fact. Describe what you observed, for example, “the motor does not turn after start is pressed.” Previous maintenance records may help if the problem has happened before. A notification records a need or event; a maintenance order can manage the work and resources. Later lessons explain these objects in more detail.

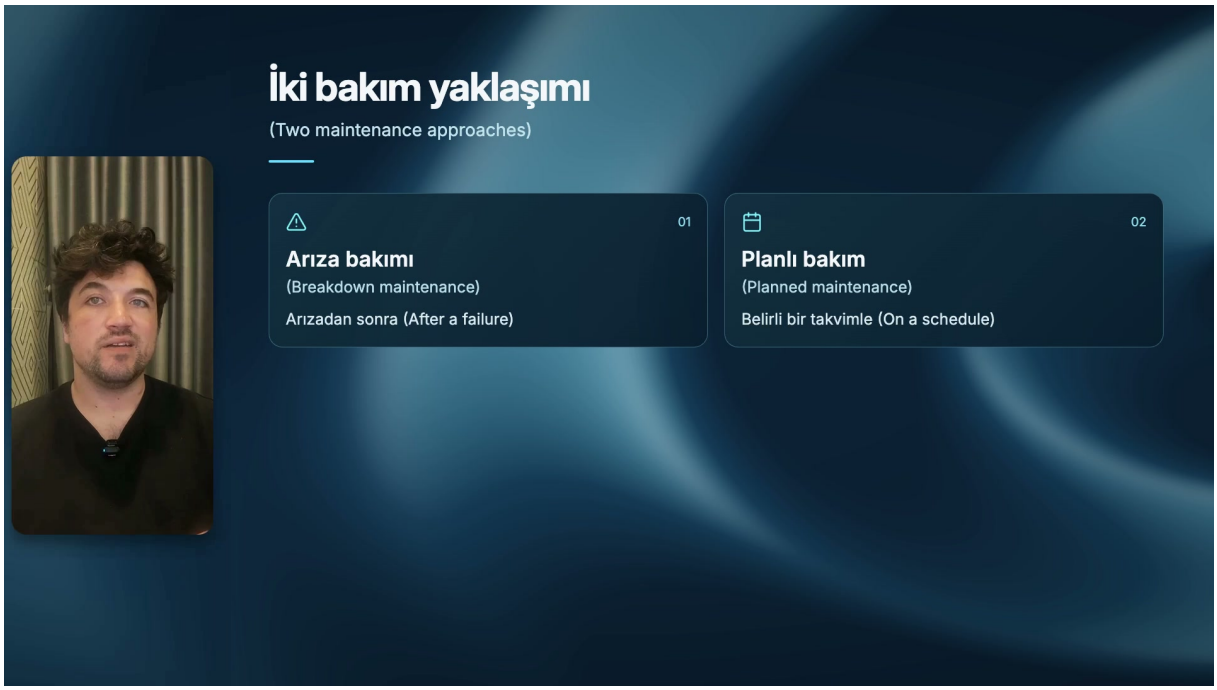
- Which equipment and which symptom?
- When did it start, and how does it affect production?
- Has it happened before, and what was done then?

REMEMBER

Separate observations from diagnosis. The root cause may only become clear after investigation.

03

Breakdown and preventive maintenance



01:38 | Unexpected breakdown compared with maintenance planned in advance.

Breakdown maintenance responds to a problem after it occurs. Preventive maintenance plans checks or work before a failure. A monthly inspection is time-based; maintenance after a certain number of operating hours may be counter-based. “Planned” does not always mean “preventive”: repair of a known fault can also be scheduled for a suitable shutdown. The main comparison in this lesson is an unexpected stop versus a regular preventive check. The asset’s needs and the company’s maintenance strategy determine the approach.

- Breakdown: action after a failure
- Preventive: work at a defined interval or usage value
- Planning: define dates, resources and work scope

REMEMBER

Not every planned job is preventive maintenance. Consider the reason for the work separately from its scheduling.

04

The basic maintenance workflow



02:11 | Identify, plan, record, review and build maintenance history.

First identify the maintenance need. Then consider the work, responsible resource, required materials and suitable time. During execution, the team records what it did and the result. Completion is more than changing a status: the record should explain the activity, parts used and any remaining work. Finally, review the records to understand recurring problems and future needs. These five steps form a learning model. Screens, approval sequences and document flows do not have to be identical in every company.

- Identify: what is needed?
- Plan and execute: who, when and with which resources?
- Record and review: what was done, and what happened?

REMEMBER

Instead of only “checked,” record the result: for example, a loose connection was found and tightened.

05

Why does maintenance history matter?

01

Event

02

Work done

03

Result

If the same packaging machine stops again a month later, the team should be able to review the previous work. What symptom was observed? Was a part replaced? Which action helped? A consistent equipment number and clear work descriptions let different shifts follow the same history. Historical records do not prove a diagnosis by themselves; they provide evidence for investigation. Recording actions that did not solve the problem can also help the next team avoid repeating the same attempts.

- A record linked to the correct asset
- Actions taken and materials used
- Result and any follow-up need

REMEMBER

The same symptom does not always mean the same root cause. Use past records as starting information.

06

Connections to MM, PP and CO



02:40 | Maintenance connects to materials, costs and production.

If the maintenance team needs a bearing, stock availability and possibly purchasing become important. This connects to MM. If maintenance requires a production line to stop, the team coordinates a suitable time with production, connecting to PP processes. Material consumption, labor and external services can contribute to maintenance cost. Where those costs are collected depends on the system design. PM does not replace all other teams; it connects maintenance work with their processes.

- MM: spare parts, inventory, purchasing
- PP: coordination of production and maintenance timing
- FI / CO: financial records and cost tracking

REMEMBER

Even with the part available, work may wait for the right team or production shutdown. Planning considers these dependencies together.

Try it yourself

01 EXERCISE

A packaging machine stops. List four details for the initial record.

02 EXERCISE

Distinguish a monthly inspection from repair after failure.

03 EXERCISE

A bearing is needed and the line must stop for two hours. Which teams should coordinate?

Answer key

01 SAMPLE ANSWER

Equipment identity, start time, observed symptom and production impact. Add relevant history if available.

02 SAMPLE ANSWER

The monthly check is preventive maintenance. Repair after failure is corrective/breakdown maintenance; its timing can still be planned.

03 SAMPLE ANSWER

Warehouse/purchasing supports the material, maintenance plans work and resources, production agrees the shutdown, and the cost team supports relevant cost tracking.

Quick glossary and further reading

PM	Plant Maintenance
Notification	A record of a need or event
Maintenance order	An order managing maintenance work and resources
Preventive maintenance	Maintenance intended to prevent failures
Maintenance history	Previous maintenance records for an asset

LESSON AND SCREEN SOURCE

ERPHub · Enes Alku. These expanded notes are based on the related recorded lesson. Teaching scenarios and exercises were prepared for this guide.

OFFICIAL FURTHER READING

SAP Learning - Explaining Organizational Levels ↗

SAP Learning - Configure Work Centers ↗

Screens come from the lesson's SAP GUI environment. Fields may vary by version, theme, authorization and company configuration. Cloud Public Edition references support the concepts; their menu paths may differ.