

AI has become particularly useful for developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), work instructions, and decision trees. For manufacturing companies, some of the most promising applications involve capturing what experienced employees actually do and converting that knowledge into standardized instructions.

For corrugated packaging plants, I would separate the available resources into four categories:

1. AI-assisted SOP creation: Convert notes, interviews, existing procedures, and documents into structured SOPs.
2. Video-to-SOP conversion: Record an employee performing a task and use AI to develop step-by-step work instructions.
3. AI decision-tree development: Turn troubleshooting knowledge, operating rules, or conditional procedures into visual flowcharts.
4. Digital work instruction platforms: Deliver approved instructions to employees, track revisions, and support training.

The important distinction is between tools that help create an SOP and systems that manage and deliver SOPs after they have been approved. Not every company needs the second.

1. AI resources worth considering

Resource	Primary strength	Best application
ChatGPT	Develop SOPs and decision logic from existing information	Drafting, revising, standardizing procedures
Scribe	Automatically captures computer-based workflows	CSR, accounting, ERP and office procedures
Guidde	Generates instructional guides and videos	Software training and onboarding
Poka	AI-assisted shop-floor work instructions	Production, maintenance, troubleshooting
Dozuki	Structured manufacturing SOPs and training	Plant operating procedures and skill development
Augmentir	AI-assisted instructions and worker guidance	Changeovers, maintenance, inspections
Trainual	SOP management and employee training	Onboarding and companywide standardization
Lucidchart / Miro	Visual process and decision-tree development	Troubleshooting, escalation and approval logic

My recommended workflow for AICC member plants

Rather than recommending that members immediately purchase an expensive system, I would begin with a simple, repeatable process that demonstrates the benefit.

1. Capture the work. Record an operator doing a changeover, maintenance procedure, quality inspection, or setup. Supplement the recording with an explanation of why decisions are made.
2. Generate a first draft. Use ChatGPT or a manufacturing-specific AI platform to extract activities, organize the sequence, identify tools and PPE, and flag questions requiring expert clarification.
3. Analyze and improve. Compare the recorded method with existing SOPs and, where appropriate, SMED principles. Identify waiting, unnecessary motion, opportunities for parallel work, and potential safety concerns.
4. Create two related outputs. Produce a step-by-step SOP for normal operation and a decision tree covering exceptions, troubleshooting, or escalation.
5. Validate and publish. Have operators, maintenance, safety, and management review the instructions. Add version control, approved photographs, and training requirements before release.

For a member plant, an initial pilot might take an existing 15–30 minute changeover video and produce three draft deliverables: an operator SOP, an SMED opportunity analysis, and a troubleshooting decision tree.

What I would recommend testing first

Objective	My first choice
Lowest-cost SOP development pilot	ChatGPT + Word
Existing video converted to factory work instructions	Dozuki or Poka
Software or administrative procedures	Scribe
Editable decision trees	Miro AI or Lucidchart
Companywide digital instructions and training	Dozuki, Poka, or Augmentir