

# Conveyors and other running equipment/machines

## Hazards: caught in, pinch points, electrocution

According to the BLS, in 2018 there were 106 fatalities that involved being caught in running equipment or machinery, including conveyor systems. Inadequately guarded conveyors and machinery expose workers to pinch points and caught in hazards which could result in injuries including amputations and death. Defective conveyors and machinery also present hazards, conveyors running at improper speeds and belt tensions can create additional hazards. Employees should be trained to recognize these circumstances and report malfunctions to supervisors and maintenance.

In general, workers should never interact with conveyors that are in motion. Conveyor lines can be designed to move stock to a workstation to be scanned, packaged, picked, etc.

## Conveyor do's:

- Keep clothing, body parts, and hair away from the conveyor. You should also avoid wearing rings, watches, bracelets, and other accessories near rotating/in motion equipment. If these items become snagged by the equipment your body will follow.
- Ensure all personnel are clear of equipment before start up. OSHA standards require that conveyor systems have a warning signal sounded prior to start up, but this is not enough. Your employees should be trained to recognize the signal and what it means as well as the hazards associated.
- Know the location of start/stop controls. Anyone working in the general area should be aware of the location and function of the emergency stop, how to use it, and when to use it.
- Allow only authorized personnel to operate and maintain the conveyors and machinery. Only those employees who have been trained to operate and perform maintenance on conveyors should do so. This ensures both technician safety and optimal conveyor performance.
- Make conveyor safety training a priority. Regular, frequent updates and refresher courses should be included in the training program and preventing unsafe acts should be a part of company culture. Visitors should also be informed of safe behavior standards if they are going to be near conveyors.

## Conveyor don'ts:

- Don't climb, step, sit, or stand the conveyor at any time. Pinch points can catch clothing or body parts, and cause serious injuries. Capacities are not designed for a human's weight. There are many ways for conveyors to cause injuries to anyone who sits on them.
- Don't remove or alter conveyor guards. Guards may only be removed by authorized employees or service technicians for maintenance. Removal of guards can expose machinery, gears, chains, and moving parts that can be dangerous if left unguarded. To help ensure safety, lock out conveyors when in service, and operate equipment only when all approved covers and guards have been reinstalled.

- Don't perform service on a conveyor until motor disconnect is locked out. Avoid performing any maintenance until electrical, air, or hydraulic power sources are disconnected or blocked out. Lockout/Tagout systems can prevent equipment from being powered up while maintenance or repairs are being done.
- Don't fail to report all unsafe conditions to your supervisor. Your company culture of safety should encourage workers to report unsafe conditions like loose guards, people working too closely with the conveyors with unrestrained clothes or hair, etc. Training about safety issues and when to report them should be made to all employees and repeated often.

**Site specific requirements:**

**Employee participants:**