

## IMPROVE YOUR CONVEYOR SYSTEM

Here are 8 things to remember to keep your conveyor system running smoothly. Conveyor systems when designed and specified correctly are very reliable, but here's how to increase your performance. Most conveyor systems are designed to handle a specific product or range of products. They run quite smoothly with little preventative maintenance if specified correctly, however there are steps to take to keep that peak performance.

### 1. DON'T EXCEED YOUR CONVEYORS CAPACITY

Remember – a conveyor has two capacities: Structural, or static live capacity, and Live Load, or drive capacity. Exceeding either can have harmful effects on your conveyor and its overall performance. Your conveyor should have been provided with both of these numbers. If you have any questions regarding any capacities please do not hesitate to give us a call.

### 3. LUBRICATE REDUCERS WITH THE PROPER OIL

A serious situation can arise if reducers aren't properly maintained with the correct type of oil. Using the wrong oil could be just as bad as no oil, causing gears to wear out long before their normal life expectancy. Be sure to read your maintenance manuals to determine what to use and how often.

### 5. WHEN INSTALLING LONG STRAIGHT CONVEYOR UNITS, USE A CHALK LINE TO MARK THE CENTRE LINES OF CONVEYORS

This is plain old common sense. Keeping conveyors in line helps prevent out-of-square units in a line and ensures that product flows smoothly from one end to another.

### 7. PERMANENTLY INSTALLED CONVEYORS SHOULD ALWAYS BE BOLTED TO THE FLOOR

Not only does this keep conveyors in line and working efficiently, it will prevent accidents and make your operation safer. A conveyor not properly bolted (also called 'lagged') to the floor could topple under load or if bumped. This investment is well worth making.

### 2. DON'T FORGET TO LUBRICATE SPRINGS ON BALANCED GATES

If you notice that your spring balanced gates don't lift as easily as when they were first installed, it's probably because the springs are getting dry. In this case, they should be lubricated with the proper oil.

### 4. EMPLOYEES WORKING WITH OR AROUND CONVEYORS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH ALL SAFETY WARNING STICKERS

Many times, employers hire people and place them wherever necessary to get the job done. If you find yourself bringing people near the conveyors that aren't used to dealing with them, it's strongly advised that you provide them with adequate safety training. They should understand the inherent risks of conveyor units and the meanings of all warning stickers.

### 6. KEEP RECOMMENDED SPARE PARTS ON HAND

Conveyor users should keep a stock of spare parts at all times as part of their preventative maintenance program. If you have any questions on which parts to stock, please contact us for assistance. Having stock on-hand means that you will likely keep the conveyor in better repair. It also means less downtime in case of a breakdown. Given that an inactive conveyor can cripple an operation,

### 8. REMEMBER TO INCREASE HORSEPOWER IF CONVEYOR SPEED INCREASES

Just increasing the speed of the conveyor to move products faster isn't enough. It's imperative that the horsepower be increased to match. As a rule it takes twice as much horsepower to move a package at 130 FPM (feet per minute) than at 65 FPM. Use this formula to get an idea of your horsepower requirements.