

Thursday 25 July 2024

Worker caught in moving conveyor belt



Incident Summary

A depot worker was recently injured when their arm and wrist were caught and trapped between a moving conveyor belt and a tray while attempting to clean the belt.

A coworker immediately activated the emergency stop button and the belt needed to be cut to release the worker's arm. The ambulance was called to site and thankfully the worker only sustained a small laceration to a finger. This could have resulted in a very serious injury.

Conveyor Safety Information

Conveyors are a major cause of severe workplace injuries and in the worst cases, a fatality. There are significant risks associated with the use of conveyor belts and the results of unsafe use, and exposure to moving parts of machinery, can be devastating.

Consider 'reasonably practicable' control measures to manage the risks associated with working with machinery that have moving parts and potential nip points such as conveyors.

Please ensure:

- conveyors are guarded
- power sources are isolated and locked out before working on a conveyor
- belts, pulleys, drums, troughs or return idlers are not cleaned while a conveyor is moving
- safe operating procedures for setting-up, operating, cleaning and maintaining the machine are available and that staff are trained and follow these procedures
- all START/STOP, and emergency controls are marked and all people working near a conveyor are aware of the controls' locations
- the machine is never used if guards have been removed and/or the interlocks are not working or have been removed
- repairs or maintenance tasks are not carried out on a moving conveyor. If repairs, adjustments or tracking are required on a moving conveyor without normal guarding, it is important that:
 - the work is carried out by an authorised competent person
 - an attendant is at the emergency stop station
 - the appropriate safe work procedure is in place
- each operator understands the safe operation of the conveyor and safety precautions through adequate training



- all people wear appropriate clothing and avoid loose clothing near moving conveyors
- the area is kept clean and tidy – good housekeeping eliminates hazards such as tripping, slipping, and falling.

Other Resources

[WHSQ - Managing the risks of plant in the workplace COP 2021](#)

[WHSQ - Guide to machinery and equipment safety](#)

[AS/NZS 4024.3610:2015 Safety of machinery Conveyors - General requirements](#)

Questions

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