

SAFETY ALERT



INEFFECTIVE CONVEYOR BELT CLAMP

INCIDENT

A workman was injured when a conveyor belt slipped through a belt clamp.

CIRCUMSTANCES

He was kneeling on the belt, marking out a splice when the belt moved abruptly, throwing him off the belt into the rib.

INVESTIGATION

The clamp was made of two hollow, square, steel sections, bolted together.

Tightening of the bolts caused the clamp to bow in the middle.

Loss of grip on the smooth bowed surfaces allowed the belt to slip through the clamp.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Design of belt clamps is to be based on a pull test and then given a Working Load Limit (WLL) rating based on an adequate safety margin. This rating is to be clearly displayed on all belt clamps.
2. The tension which the clamp is likely to experience must be no more than its WLL rating. This information must be made readily available to anyone using the clamp.
3. The clamping effect is not to rely only on friction on smooth surfaces. These may be affected by oil or water. Other means such as ribs, protrusions or dimples must be used to provide a positive grip.

APPROVED

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