



# Safety Tips for Using Conveyors

Most workers engage in the manual handling of various materials. Conveyors eliminate or reduce manual material handling tasks, but they introduce pinch, crush, entanglement and amputation hazards associated with mechanical motion.

Conveyor-related injuries often involve a worker's body parts getting caught in nip points or shear points when:

- Cleaning or maintaining a conveyor, primarily when it is still operating.
- Reaching into an in-going nip point to remove debris or to free jammed material.
- A cleaning cloth or clothing gets caught in the conveyor and pulls fingers or hands into the conveyor.

## Safe Work Practices

- Allow only qualified workers to operate or maintain conveyors.
- Do not attempt to remove stuck items or debris until the conveyor is locked out.
- Conduct an assessment of emergency stop button locations for easy accessibility.
- Consider the use of a cable-style emergency stop option.
  - In case of an emergency, an operator can push or pull anywhere along the length of the cable to stop the conveyor from running.
- Install permanent barrier guards to protect workers from nip points, shear points and other moving parts.
- Wear close-fitting clothing, avoid wearing loose necklaces or lanyards and ensure head and facial hair are cut or confined.
- Use awareness devices such as warning signs or lights.
- Never ride on a conveyor or crawl over or under one – only an approved crossover should be used.
- Take precautions and wear safety helmets to prevent injury from materials that could fall from a conveyor that runs overhead.

These resources are provided for informational purposes only. Operator assumes all risks and responsibilities associated with use of equipment.

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