

Conveyor Equipment Manufacturers Association Semi-Annual Press Release

CONVEYOR INDUSTRY ANTICIPATES FAVORABLE RESULTS IN 1998

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NAPLES, FLORIDA - The Conveyor Equipment Manufacturer Association (CEMA) reports that 1998 booked orders and shipments are on pace to equal the record setting results of calendar year 1997.

Led by good booked order strength in bulk handling equipment and components and in unit handling component categories, CEMA reports industry totals of \$2.9 billion new orders and \$2.7 billion of shipments for the first six months of 1998. This compares favorably with the 1997 yearly totals of \$5.8 billion in orders and \$5.4 billion of shipments, both industry records, according to Ben Hinterlong, CEMA president, who announced the results at the association's recently held fall meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

Booked sales for two of the four bulk handling categories reported increases over last year's comparable period. Bulk conveyor components was the category's booked sales volume leader with a 15 percent increase. This was offset somewhat by a seven percent drop in the bulk systems bookings and a slight drop in bookings in screw conveyors for the comparable 6 month period.

Overall, orders for bulk handling conveyors rose seven percent while shipments increased nine percent during this period. First six-month orders for unit handling conveyors showed a 12 percent decrease but shipments were five percent better than the 1997 six-month pace.

Also, showing a decrease in bookings was volume-leading category light to medium unit load handling conveyors with a drop of seven percent.

The consensus of the executives from the member companies attending the CEMA fall meeting was that, should the 1998 trend continue for the second half of the year, both orders and shipments could match the record levels established by the industry in 1997.

Founded in 1933, CEMA is the National trade association of the leading USA conveyor equipment manufacturers, CEMA tracks six classes of bulk handling equipment orders and shipments.