

# Conveyor Equipment Manufacturers Association Semi-Annual Press Release

## **CONVEYOR INDUSTRY - ANOTHER RECORD YEAR IN 1997**

March 16, 1998

NAPLES, FLORIDA - The Conveyor Equipment Manufacturers Association (CEMA) reports that a new industry record for booked orders was set in 1997, approaching within striking distance of \$6 billion for the first time.

Led by across-the-board strength in unit handling categories, CEMA estimates that in 1997 the industry rang up new orders of \$5.8 billion and \$5.4 billion in shipments. The prior records, established in 1996, were \$5.4 billion in orders and \$5.2 billion in shipments, according to Mike McKee, CEMA President, who announced the results at the Association's Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona.

Founded in 1933, CEMA is the national trade association of leading U.S. conveyor equipment manufacturers. CEMA tracks six classes of unit handling equipment and five classes of bulk handling equipment.

Four of the six unit handling categories showed increases in orders.

Bookings for light to medium unit handling conveyors, the leader in dollar volume, were up 4%. Overall, orders for unit handling conveyors were 7% higher with shipments up 5%. Booked sales for four of the five bulk handling categories were equal to or up from last year's comparable period.

- Bulk conveyor components, the leader in bulk category booked sales Volume, were up 15%.
- Screw conveyor bookings increased by 4%.
- Engineered bulk systems bookings for 1997 were 73% above the 1996 level.
- Orders for bulk handling conveyors were up 11%, while shipments showed a 10% increase from comparable 1996 levels.

The executives representing CEMA member companies who attended the Annual Meeting were confident that 1998 orders and shipments would both approach 1997 levels.