

Guarding Conveyors to Enhance Safety



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Contact with moving conveyor parts such as idlers, pulleys, drive components and shafts may result in serious injury or death. It is important that effective conveyor guarding be used to protect personnel from potential injury that may result from contact with moving equipment during operation and maintenance.

It is the responsibility of the conveyor owner to ensure that appropriate guarding is utilized on the conveyor system.

“When developing a guarding program, a 'Best Practices' Plan for conveyor guarding should be established and implemented with the input of all concerned parties to help ensure that the most effective guards are put in place and properly maintained.”

A basic consideration is that the guard must prevent contact with the moving parts and must be recognizable as a guard while allowing proper maintenance without imposing undue requirements on personnel to work on the guarded components.

There are three basic types of guarding. Point guarding, or guarding the specific moving part that poses the hazard, is the preferred method for guarding against potential hazards associated with moving machine parts. Area guarding is generally defined as placing a larger guard over a wide area to prevent access to the area and thereby protect against the specific hazard. Lastly, perimeter guarding requires that the entire area of the conveyor be sealed off with the use of a fence or other materials that prevent access to the area surrounding the conveyor system.



Appropriate labels should be used on the guards in order to help personnel identify the specific hazards associated with the guard. Labels may be custom made but may also be acquired from a variety of sources including CEMA. Signs may be employed if the affected area is large enough that a sign should be used in place of a label on or near the guard. Both labels and signs must be properly positioned, maintained and replaced as needed so that the hazard is identifiable by personnel.



For additional information regarding *conveyor guards, best practices and labels* visit www.cemanet.org/safety-labels-2/.

For additional information on conveyor guarding please reference **Chapter 14 titled “Operation, Maintenance and Safety”** of the **7th Edition of CEMA Belt Conveyors for Bulk Materials**.