



BELT CONVEYOR GUARDING

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Why Standardize Guarding?

What is a Standard?

Put at its simplest, a standard is an agreed, repeatable way of doing something. Standards help to make life simpler and to increase the reliability and the effectiveness of the products and services we use. They are intended to be aspirational – a summary of good and best practices rather than general practice. Standards are created by bringing together the experience and expertise of all interested parties such as producers, sellers, buyers, users, and regulators of a particular product or service. For example, the physical characteristics and format of credit cards is set to a standard. Adhering to this standard means that the cards can be used worldwide. Stop to think for a minute what life would be like without this standard?

Now having said all that, how does this relate to guarding? Guarding is all too often an after thought, something that is installed as a result of an injury, or has been mandated by local safety regulators. In many cases guarding is fabricated and installed by people who know little about guarding best practices and do not follow any form of standardization. This is where the problem starts but does not end.

- What is the real cost of “custom” made guards that are ineffective and not user friendly?
- How does a company, small or large develop safe work procedures if there are no established guarding standards? Shouldn't similar equipment be guarded the same way?
- How does a supervisor educate new and existing workers on safe guarding practices if there are no guarding standards?
- How does a buyer purchase guards or guarding services if there is no established standard?
- **Even a well made guard can be ineffective if it is not installed to a standard.**

STAY AWAY - STAY SAFE

What are the benefits of guarding standards?

Standards are a powerful tool for organizations of all sizes, supporting innovation, increasing productivity, reducing costs, and ensuring worker safety. Effective standardization enhances profitability, enabling a company to take a leading role in shaping the industry they are in. Standardizing guarding allows a company to:

- Create safe working policies and procedures that can be used company wide. This is extremely important with larger companies that have multiple locations.
- Implement training programs for workers and maintenance personnel that are simple and effective.
- Streamline procurement of guards and guarding services.
- Obtain cost effective solutions to guarding situations.
- Audit effectiveness of guarding polices and procedures to a given standard.
- Peace of mind knowing workers are safe.

Standardized guarding can deliver measurable results when applied properly. Business costs and risks can be minimized, internal processes streamlined and communication improved. Standardizing your guarding will eliminate costly shut downs for safety violations.

The food we consume, the vehicles we drive, and health care we receive are all governed by standards, and we would not expect any less. Would you choose air travel today if safety practices, procedures and devices were not standardized?

Guarding equipment and ensuring worker safety should not be any different.

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Why Standardize Guarding?

We hope you have enjoyed this tip sheet on “Standardizing Guarding” and now see that selecting the right supplier is critical to your success. Whatever your approach is to guarding, follow these tips and you will reduce worker injury, improve productivity, and comply with industry standards.

I would like to personally wish you great success in your guarding endeavors.

Sincerely,

Paul Vandergeest
President

ON GUARD FOR YOU

Guarding Basics

If your conveyors need guarding, and you are interested in developing a Safety Guarding Plan, then contact Belt Conveyor Guarding to set up an appointment for your free Conveyor Guarding Assessment.

During your initial contact, we will take some time to get to know you and your specific requirements. Once we have a good understanding of your guarding challenges and objectives we will suggest guarding techniques that will quickly adapt to your needs.

Your assessment comes with no obligation to purchase our products or act on our recommendations, and we will not pressure you in any way. It will be your choice to take the next step, and if you choose not to, that’s okay with us.

Book your free Conveyor Guarding Assessment today by calling our toll free number 1-866-300-6668 or fill in our contact information sheet at:

www.conveyorguarding.com/lpassess.htm

With each guarding assessment we will also send you a **free Conveyor Pinch Point Gauge**.

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