

Instructions for Handling and Storage of Conveyor belts

Handling

Conveyor belting is generally supplied in cylindrical wooden or steel reels and in cases of overseas transportation in fully enclosed steel reels, racetrack or similar.



Before lifting the belt ensure that facilities can handle the weight and the dimensions, which are always marked on the reel side.

The reels are always equipped with a square center to take each company's winder shaft. Insert the shaft and make sure that it is protruding at least 200mm from each side to accommodate the slings or the forklifts tines. To avoid damaging belt edges you should use a spreader bar.

The best practice for running out the belt is to use a braked stand. Small roll can be pulled from a freewheeling stand, however care should be taken to avoid the belt from running away.

If the belt is to be dragged along the ground, then care should be taken to ensure that no objects are blocking the area.

In cases where there is a headroom limitation it may be necessary to remove the belt from its reel and store it in a flat position. If that happens make sure that large loops are maintained to prevent carcass fracture.

Storage

General recommendations for storage and handling of conveyor belts are given in ISO/DIN 5285. As substitution DIN 7716 (Rubber products, storage and maintenance) can be used also. This standard however partially formulates excessive requirements which not necessarily have to be taken into consideration for conveyor belts and storage duration of maximum 1 to 2 years.

In any case the conveyor belts have to be stored upright in the factory package until used, protected from direct sun light and permanent water. The storage area shall be prepared for stable putting down of the reels and preventing the belts from being damaged by foreign parts. A cool dry warehouse, free from direct sunlight, oil, ozone producing machinery or corrosive fumes is recommended.

Points of attention:

- Avoid long term storage near the sea
- Ensure the initial integrity of the wrapping
- Do not lean the belt against walls as this can cause telescoping

If prolonged intermediate storage is necessary, it is advisable to suspend the coiled belt with one axle in two movable stands. If this is not feasible, the coil should be turned at intervals to change the contact surface.

The location in the storage premises should be selected so as to avoid heat and direct sunlight. The belt should also be protected from contact with chemicals, grease or oil. Premature ageing, cracking, hardening or swelling would affect the service life of the conveyor belt (cf. DIN standard 7716, May 1982- Rubber products: Requirements for storage, cleaning and maintenance).

In case of prolonged storage in the open air (for steel cord belts) the cut edge at the start and end of the belt has to be protected from moisture. It may be advisable to coat the cut edge with cold splicing cement.