

Another worker killed in gravity take-up



A worker was fatally injured on 22 August in the USA, when he was caught in a take-up roller on a conveyor (refer attached alert).

This type of incident occurs regularly and unfortunately the result is nearly always fatal.

In QLD a few years ago, a worker was investigating a 'screech' noise coming from a conveyor gantry when he crouched down on the catwalk alongside the operating conveyor and was pulled into the conveyor between the gantry structure and the roller. Guards had not been

fitted to this area of the gantry and like the similar incident last month in the US, the result was fatal.

In both these incidents the conveyor was operating at the time of the incident and guards were not fitted adjacent to the gravity tower take-up rollers and grease points.

We recommend that all sites review tasks that involve maintenance on conveyors while the conveyors are running including greasing, belt tracking, and inspection. You need to ensure that:

- **Suitable guards are fitted on or adjacent to moving or rotating pieces of equipment to prevent workers coming into contact with the piece of equipment**
- **Workers are fully trained and assessed as competent to conduct activities on plant**
- **Tracking adjustors and grease lines are extended or adjusted so that they are outside of guards and so that guards do not have to be removed to conduct maintenance**
- **All maintenance tasks are adequately risk assessed, and controls put in place, to ensure no risk of harm to workers.**

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

14 September 2018