



Knowledge is Power

Aaron Gibbs, Vice
President, ASGCO,
USA, provides a
brief outline of
the conveyor
training
programme
run by the
company.

Introduction

In today's fast-paced world, society is in a constant state of change, in both the everyday things we do at home and at work. Change can be good for any organisation; however, if not carried out correctly, it can have negative effects on employees, products and the services that the organisation provides to its customers. Change can be quite daunting for some individuals that have been in a certain 'comfort zone' and have become accustomed to carrying out a task in the same way, without ever seeing any reason for change. This 'comfort zone' can, in fact, be one of the reasons why changes have not been made. Individuals feel that their way is the best way, whether the matter under review is planning a scheduled plant shut-down or the best way to lift a large object.



Students participate in the morning classroom session.

Conveyor training

As children, we learn new ideas in school every day. In college and trade schools we learn our future job skills. Once at work, we rely on our employers or our own ambitions for learning new ideas and skills. Readers will be familiar with the expression "knowledge is power", but how do we gain that knowledge? By trying to improve yourself each and every day and by taking any training class or course that is offered.

Conveyors are the lifeline to any plant's bulk material handling production. This is why ASGCO has started its very successful "Conveyor Training 101" class.

The company has just completed its first year of "Conveyor Training 101" classes with over 20 companies from five countries. A total of 60 people have attended, ranging from plant maintenance mechanics to mine superintendents, from engineering firms to distributor salesmen. During the two-day class, the team will spend each morning in a classroom, discussing the most common conveyor problems and safety issues such as mis-tracking, spillage and dust, and the effects it can have on a conveyor system's productivity. The remainder of the day is spent in the "hands-on" conveyor training room, installing components on a full size, working conveyor. Experienced staff show the team the ease of installing and maintaining ASGCO conveyor components to maximise overall conveyor efficiency. The course can also be tailored to meet more specific conveyor needs.

The goal of the training programme, is to learn a new technique for a quicker and safer way to work around, troubleshoot and solve everyday conveyor problems in order to help make students' conveyor systems run more efficiently.



In the afternoon, students undertake 'hands-on' learning in the conveyor training room.



Conclusion

Hands-on is always better than online or just in a classroom. Working and learning directly on a conveyor system that is similar to the students' own helps participants to learn and understand new ideas that will enable them to optimise their own conveyor systems. ●

Conveyor components, maintenance, safety and design

Day 1 morning	Introduction, identifying components of a conveyor, and safety
	What is fugitive material and its causes and associated problems?
	Problems created by carryback, belt mis-tracking, spillage and dust, costs of fugitive material
Day 1 afternoon (in conveyor training room)	Overview of all conveyor components
	Belt cleaners, belt tracking and safety product installations
Day 2 morning	Economics of material containment and control in and throughout the load zone
	Solutions through design and equipment in the transfer point
	Material wear liners: where and why?
Day 2 afternoon (in conveyor training room)	Skirting, load zone containment and wear liner product installations