T E C H N I C A L B U L L E T I N

POSITIVE DRIVE CHAIN EDGE PLASTIC MODULAR BLANCHER BELTS

Two or more strands of chain connected by cross supports, which carry a plastic modular belt.

Positive Drive Chain Edged Plastic Modular Blancher Belts are constructed from modules of Polypropylene material, which are designed to take up to a maximum operating temperature of 220°F [104°C]. However when operating continuously for prolonged periods of time at this temperature a condition of 'Plastic Memory' takes place, this causes the material to deform and reduce in size but does not have an adverse effect on the material properties.

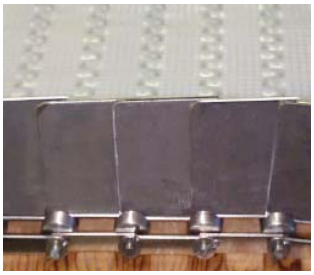
This condition normally takes place when operating at or above 158°F [70°C] up to 220°F [104°C]. For Polypropylene the recommended safe working temperature is 158°F [70°C] and 220°F [104°C] is the recommended maximum operating temperature.

Strengthening links are added as necessary to provide adequate tensile strength. These links additionally aid to contain the module shrinkage and provide positive positioning on the intermediate sprockets.

Blancher belts are constructed with stainless steel cross rods and side chains. This construction holds the longitudinal pitch of the modules by the constraints of the side chains and cross rods. The lateral module pitch reduces, allowing the modules to float across the belt width, causing the side chains to lose their centers, which in turn will cause mal-gearing at the sprockets. The wider the belt construction the more evident the shrinkage will appear.

To overcome this problem cross rods are turned down at the side chain. This creates a shoulder on the rod fixing the chain centers, but allowing the modules to move laterally.

NOTE: *One end of the joining rod will have a longer turned down portion for the joint position. A second method is to have a pipe/rod arrangement, creating the same effect as above.*



FIRE WARNING *Safety Precautions for Plastic Belting*

Most plastic belting, including some Ashworth belts, contains thermoplastic components that can burn. If exposed to an open flame or to temperatures above stated specifications, belts may decompose and emit toxic fumes. Do not expose plastic belts to extreme temperatures or to an open flame. Additionally, these belts should not be used following any process, such as an oven, where products could be ignited before being placed on the belt. Refer to the appropriate MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) for other precautions and emergency response information.

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