

What's Happening At Wecon Services



January 2007

Volume 2, Number 1

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Welcome

To the next edition of our What's happening at Wecon Services "WHAWS" newsletter. We have had an extremely busy fall and Christmas season so much so that we needed to add to our team of professionals yet again.

It is with great pleasure we would like to announce the addition of Mr. Gary Niklas to our sales team. Gary brings with him a vast history of experience in both sales and service in the conveyor industry. Gary joins us in the role of System Sales and has already been in touch with many clients eager to let us help them solve their material handling concerns. If you haven't talked to Gary, feel free to give him, or any of sales professionals a call, we'd be more than happy to hear from you.

What's Happening At Wecon Services

- We just completed the supply of all the conveyor equipment for a major automotive manufacturer, this equipment should all be up and running in the next week or two and is expected to help keep production flow rates where they need to be
- The latest phase of enhancements is now complete for a major system installed a couple of years ago and the reports are these new enhancements are exceeding expectations
- System modifications are installed and running in a food producing operation, allowing the production rates to be increased beyond what is necessary
- Flexible conveyor sales were brisk this quarter, these are great conveyors and are some of the most versatile around, portable and useful for many different applications.
- The installation phase has begun for a complete retrofit of a picking system for a local food distributor, once complete the useable shipping doors will be almost doubled allowing for smoother more efficient delivery schedules
- Plans are under way to add automatic sortation and palletizing equipment to meet the increasing demands of an international food distributor.
- The first phase of modifications to a book supplier is complete and production rates are now achievable. Phase two is set to start in February.
- Used equipment has never been in such demand, we have been keeping our inventory up in both local and remote locations, give us a call to see if used equipment is an option for you.



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- The installation phase is about to begin for a cosmetics distribution facility, this will include new pick to light, shipping and sortation systems
- We have just completed the supply and installation of a new high speed sortation system in western Canada this system is expected to increase volumes immediately, just in time for the very busy spring season right around the corner
- The retrofit of shipping equipment will now make a major electronics distributor even more efficient than before, more changes are planned for this system



ACCUMULATION CONVEYOR

Accumulation conveyor is basically any conveyor that will allow product to be accumulated or staged on it.

There are many types, styles and sizes of accumulation conveyor ranging from gravity feed to low or zero pressure accumulation to non contact accumulation, all of these have specific features and as with any conveyor equipment must be applied properly to satisfy any system requirements. Most of these popular styles are available from about 12" wide to 36" wide as standards with special sizes available.

Gravity Accumulation

The least expensive of any accumulation conveyor, along with being the least expensive it is also the style with the least capabilities. Gravity accumulation is nothing more than a section of gravity conveyor (non-motorized roller or wheel) that may be installed with a set amount of pitch allowing gravity to force the product to flow to one end of the unit. For mixed product sizes and weights or longer runs of conveyor this style is not recommended without a full understanding of its capabilities and limitations.

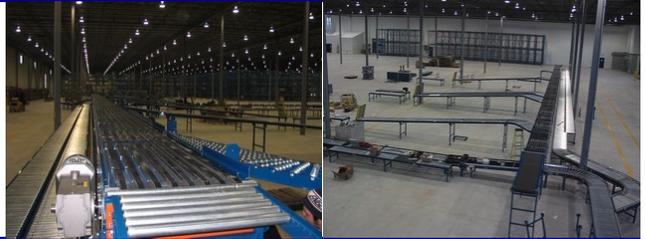
Low Pressure Accumulation

A very popular style of accumulation conveyor, mid range priced with some effective qualities and capabilities.

Low pressure accumulation is a motorized conveyor that has the ability to drive product together and not require the driving force to be stopped and started as with an indexing conveyor.

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Low pressure accumulation conveyors can be generally powered wheel or roller types that allow slipping of the driving force under the product, causing a low amount of pressure on the lead product. This style of accumulation is good only for very short runs of conveyor and is not recommended for mixed product sizes and weights

Zero Pressure Accumulation

Probably the most common style of accumulation conveyor used in any modern day conveying system, a little higher in the pricing scale but well worth the investment once the capabilities are realized.

Zero pressure accumulation conveyor allows for a buffer of product to be staged in an area that will require a constant flow of product on the discharge end and an area of accumulation on the in feed end, allowing multiple production areas to feed to the same discharge area.

Zero pressure accumulation conveyor is a motorized conveyor that powers products along a conveyor surface and makes use of sensors, either mechanical or electronic, to automatically remove the driving force from any zone that doesn't require drive. When the zone in question requires drive, sensors will trigger the driving force to automatically re-engage all without starting or stopping of the motor or affecting the discharge rate of the conveyor.

Zero pressure accumulation conveyors can be set up in runs of over 200 feet with a single drive making them an extremely valuable part of any modern conveyor system.

Non Contact Accumulation

Similar to zero pressure accumulation except that the products are accumulated without touching each other, a very important feature for fragile or special requirement products. One of the more expensive styles of accumulation conveyor but again in the correct application it is sometimes the only acceptable method of accumulating product.

Non contact accumulation conveyor will make use of sensors to apply a braking system to a zone upstream from a zone that will have product in it already allowing downstream product to be accumulated with-out touching any other product.

When signaled the products will be released and flow continues as required.

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Next Issue

More on Picking The Right Conveyor Equipment

We began our review of the most basic types of conveyors beginning with an overview of Gravity Wheel and Roller conveyors, then on to Transportation Conveyors and Accumulation.

Next issue we focus our review on *Sortation* Conveyors