

Overhead Conveyor Fall Protection Solution

InCord, Colchester, CT, – The following application stemmed from a request to solve a troublesome conveyor problem in an effort to protect employees, goods and workflow.

The Challenge:

Guarding workers from items dropped from an overhead flex link conveyor system. Caught objects must be retrieved without impeding the workflow.

The Opportunity:

An American based multinational consumer goods company that produces personal care products has a large distribution center with over 640 linear feet of FlexLink, high-speed, overhead conveyor.



Due to the high speeds of the conveyor system, product would often fly off of the conveyor and into various random areas, and often hitting the workers below.

To remedy the issue, the company had purchased rolls of snow screen plastic netting at a local store and fastened the netting to each side of their overhead conveyor system with nylon zip ties.

The netting functioned as they had hoped for by catching falling products and protecting the workers below. However, a new issue was created. Since each run of netting was quite large and zip tied to the conveyor system, workers had a terrible time trying to retrieve fallen products out of the nets.

The retrieval process caused delays in the facility as workers had to literally stop production, get a step ladder and spend 10-15 minutes, trying to fish products out of the catch nets.

In many instances, they would cut the netting & then zip-tie the seam back together. It was not a pretty sight, and the system got more ragged and patched over time.

The Solution:

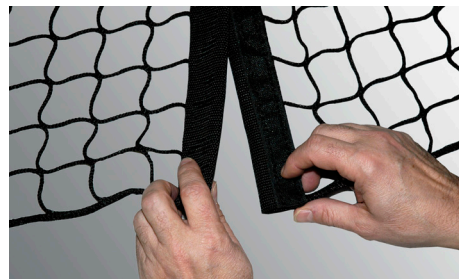
The facility engineers contacted a local material handling dealer who in turn had their netting fabricator InCord visit the job site.

Since the maximum weight of the conveyor traveling products was less than 10 lb, InCord made a matrix of light weight custom net panels designed for easier handling and retrieval of goods caught in the netting.

Features/Benefits Provided:

- *Impact absorbing net protects workers from falling objects.*
- *Versatile design allows for easy retrieval of lost product.*
- *Interconnecting panel size allows for changes in system configuration.*

Using a Velcro hook and loop fastener system stitched along the web seam of adjoining net panels, each panel to panel seam now allowed for easy separation and reconnection without impacting other portions of the netting system.



The panels were also made to a smaller size providing many access areas within the matrix of system panels.

The new netting was installed to the overhead conveyor using easy to release snap hooks to further enhance the versatility of the catch net system.

The Results

The InCord solution allowed workers to easily undo a section of net, retrieve the lost item and then quickly refasten the net catch panel.

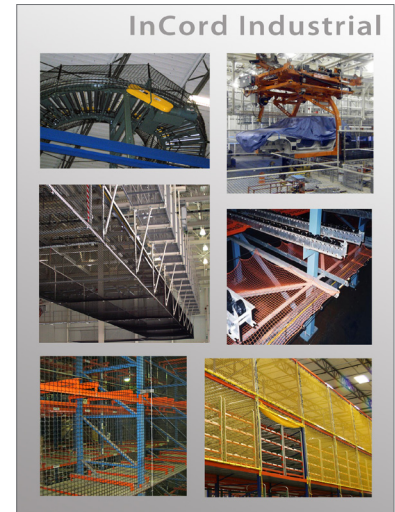
No tools are used in lost good retrieval and no netting is cut. The workflow now runs uninterrupted.

About InCord

InCord is a manufacturer of protective guarding products for material handling and warehouse storage.

In addition to industrial and material handling applications, InCord also serves the netting needs for construction, automotive, amusement and sports industries.

InCord stocks over four million square feet of netting in knotless and knotted configurations in an assortment of mesh diameters and colors for the widest range of custom applications from safety to theming.



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