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# Tech Note

Technical Notes from the Technical Committee, NIBA – The Belting Association

## #2 Belt Storage and Shipping

Modern conveyor belts are very durable products, but they can be adversely affected by improper storage and shipping practices. The basic recommended practices for belt storage/shipping are as follows:

**ALWAYS SHIP AND STORE BELTS IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION**, with the **core horizontal**, ideally with the core suspended, or with the belt resting on a raised surface such as a skid or platform. Never store belts on their sides, with the core vertical. This type of storage can result in differential moisture absorption in the two edges and thus lead to undesirable camber when the belt is used. Even under ideal storage conditions, cut edge belting may absorb moisture in the edges. When a partial width belt is cut from a wider roll, the original edge will have absorbed some moisture, more than the freshly cut edge, and thus may cause some camber in the belt in initial use. However, this type of camber will disappear in a few days as the moisture equalizes in the two edges.

**TEMPERATURE EXTREMES SHOULD BE AVOIDED IN BELT STORAGE.** Ideal temperature would be 50EF (10EC) to 70EF (21EC). Temperatures above 90EF (32EC) should be avoided. Temperatures below 40EF (4EC) may stiffen belts to the extent that they will not trough initially, leading to training problems. Usually, however, the belts will become acceptably flexible after running for a short time.

Neoprene belts are especially affected by storage under 40EF (4EC), as they become hard and stiff, and this can only be relieved by lengthy exposure to higher temperatures, generally above 60EF (15EC).

**PROTECT STORED BELTS FROM DIRECT SUNLIGHT AND OZONE.** These elements can cause surface hardening and cracking. Ozone is associated with electric motors, generators, and arc welders. Susceptibility to these conditions varies widely among the various grades of belts, depending on intended use. Consult your belt manufacturer for help in this area.

**COVER AND ELEVATE BELTS STORED OUTSIDE.** Set the rolls of belt on a skid or platform to prevent direct exposure to surface moisture and standing water. The rolls should be covered with a rain and sunlight restricting material, most commonly black plastic film, perforated to allow ventilation and trapped water drainage.

**AVOID ROLLING BELTS.** This usually leads to loosening of the belt wraps, and may result in Atelescoping@ of the rolls. If necessary, roll belts only in the direction they are wound.