



Technical Article

## **Tubular Pipe Conveyor Design Using a Standard Fabric Belt**

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The installation and operation of tubular pipe conveyors is increasing where environmental conditions and complex profiles justify their application. However, this type of equipment is usually of a proprietary design and there can arise on occasions, for varied reasons, some difficulty in obtaining spare parts, in particular, replacement belt at competitive costs.

This paper discusses the application of retro-fitting a typical standard fabric belt used for trough type conveyors from alternative belt manufacturers in lieu of a special belt from the original supplier. The problems are usually associated with the fact that the belt manufacturer is not able to give recommendations and warranties to select and supply the belt or advise of changes that occur in the running conditions.

This paper discusses the impact that a standard fabric belt could have on power requirements and other factors, such as, troughing to form the circular shape, tracking to avoid twisting in a curved section of the conveyor and increased maintenance and operating costs. Also, the paper discusses only the type of tubular conveyor in which the belt is formed into a circular cross-section by a six roll hexagonal shape idler sets.