

# Splicing material selection

The weakest point of any rubber conveyor belt is the splice joint. You can fit the best quality belt in the world but if the splice joints are not strong and durable enough, then failure can be catastrophic and extremely dangerous. To get the best results, it is essential that the splicing material rubber has very similar physical properties and characteristics compared to the rubber used to make the belt itself. This means that the splicing materials should be of the same type, or 'grade', as the belt itself, such as abrasion resistant or oil resistant for example.

However, because all the individual components such as cover rubber, skim (inter-ply) rubber and the rubber solution, have very specific properties and curing characteristics to do the job they are designed to do, it is important that their intended application areas is respected in order to achieve the best results.

Although all splicing materials must be a compatible match to bond with each other, they should also match with the belt. The more specialized the belt grade, such as fire resistant for example, the more critical it becomes to match the splicing materials to it. It is also important that the splicing material rubber is not simply 'generic' rather than having been specifically constructed to achieve the strongest and most efficient bond so that good adhesions on both carcass and the transition to the base belt are obtained. These objectives are usually best achieved by using splicing kits and splicing materials supplied by the manufacturer of the belt.

## SAFE TO HANDLE

Nobody in the industry works so physically close to rubber conveyor belts as splicing technicians. It is therefore extremely important to ensure that the splicing materials being used are

## CONVEYING ADVICE

compliant with European safety and environmental REACH regulation. These regulations protect human health and the environment by restricting or banning chemicals that pose hazards including those chemicals or substances that may have category 2 carcinogenic classifications. Manufacturers based outside of Europe are not subject to these regulations. As far as we are aware, this level of compliance is unique to Dunlop and should certainly be a very important factor for anyone responsible for the welfare of those who use splicing materials in their daily work.

Dunlop representatives can provide more information on the company's wide range of splicing materials including splicing kits and pre-formed kits for steel cord belting. *Dunlop Conveyor Belting*

