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More stairs, galvanized materials, and compliant guarding

EBM CONSTRUCTION INC.

"A lot depends on the customers and what they're willing to spend on safety, but would be obviously proper access to distributors. In the last 10 years I've seen a lot more of either switchback or wraparound stairs around towers. That puts less wear and tear on your employees trying to climb a ladder, and you can take tools up with them. You can carry tools up stairs, but you'd have to rope them up if you had a ladder. That should help with maintenance in the future, because if you can get employees climbing up stairs and carrying tools in a bag, they're more likely to do preventive maintenance on their equipment themselves without having a breakdown.

"Our customers also prefer using more galvanized conveyor troughs, leg trunking, and anything that we can galvanize instead of paint, because it holds its finish better. Galvanized equipment doesn't rust. It should have a better life expectancy with normal wear than paint, because with paint, you're going to scratch it. The paint is going to chip off, and it's going to start rusting through faster than if you would galvanize it.

"In another area, many manufacturers have different levels of guarding – they have their standard guarding, and they have what they would call more of an OSHA-compliant guarding. Anything that we put up would have the OSHA-compliant guarding. It's making sure that you're staying onboard with regulation, because that's ever-changing, as they make more rules.

"Receiving speeds 15 to 20 years ago were 8,000 to 12,000 bph at most. Now, there isn't much receiving slower than 15,000 bph with the most common capacity at 20,000 bph.

When speeds were slower, it made sense to use a drag conveyor at the receiving pit because of the lower price. But when you start jumping up into larger capacities, it makes sense to use a belt conveyor. It's applicable depending on what your incline is and other factors. A belt conveyor also takes less motor horsepower to run, and so that way it lowers your energy cost. By changing to a belt conveyor, if applicable, you're able to lower your cost of running the facility."