Written by Eric Bjork, Gates Corporation
Wednesday, 21 March 2012 14:38

Belts can have issues. Understanding them is key to keeping many of your critical processes up and running.

When power transmission belts fail prematurely, productivity plummets and replacement costs add up. Knowing how to troubleshoot belt failure and take corrective and preventive actions saves valuable time and, ultimately, money.

Understanding V-belt failure issues

When a V-belt reaches the end of its service life, it will break or separate due to normal wear over an extended period of time. A properly installed and tensioned V-belt will operate at 93%-97% efficiency and last up to three to five years. Used in harsh conditions, its service life can drop to a year or less. If, however, a belt needs to be replaced more than twice a year, it may indicate a more serious problem.

Failure caused by normal V-belt wear

[redacted]

[redacted]

Ignore Belt Issues At Your Peril

Ignoring underlying causes of belt damage leads to increased downtime, decreased pro-ductivity and higher replacement costs. On the other hand, when they're properly maintained, V-belt and synchronous belt drives can be trouble-free through the course of their service lives.

For a wealth of free resources, including a poster to use as visual reference in identifying specific belt issues, click here.

For more info, enter 01 at www.MT-freeinfo.com