



# TECH SHEET

Technical Tips To Help You And Your Customers

## CODES AND STANDARDS

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### POLICY ON CODE COMPLIANCE VERTICAL RECIPROCATING CONVEYORS

THE *OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1970* PLACED THE RESPONSIBILITY UPON EACH EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR EMPLOYEE A PLACE IN WHICH TO WORK FREE FROM RECOGNIZED HAZARDS TO SAFETY AND HEALTH. *OSHA* STANDARDS ARE LISTED IN A SERIES OF PUBLICATIONS CALLED THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*. THE *FEDERAL REGISTER* DOES NOT CALL OUT ANY REQUIREMENTS SPECIFICALLY FOR VRC'S (VERTICAL RECIPROCATING CONVEYORS).

*OSHA* (*OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION*) DOES NOT APPROVE, RECOMMEND, CERTIFY OR TEST ANY PRODUCT OR EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING ITS PERFORMANCE OR COMPLIANCE WITH THE *OSHA* STANDARDS FOR MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT. *OSHA* TYPICALLY REFERS TO CODES, REGULATIONS OR STANDARDS PUBLISHED BY VARIOUS GROUPS, i.e. *ASME* (*AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS*) *ANSI* (*AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE*) *NFPA* (*NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION*) ETC.

TYPICALLY VRC'S (VERTICAL RECIPROCATING CONVEYORS) SERVICE ONE OR MORE FLOORS IN A BUILDING AND CAN BE MISTAKEN FOR AN ELEVATOR. VRC'S ARE NOT ELEVATORS. ELEVATORS ARE DESIGNED, MANUFACTURED AND INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *ASME A17.1*. VRC'S ARE DESIGNED, MANUFACTURED AND INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *ASME B20.1*.

STATE OR LOCAL CODE OFFICIALS AND INSPECTORS WHO CHECK, INSPECT AND MAY OTHERWISE APPROVE INSTALLATIONS USE THESE CODES AND STANDARDS. THE *BOCA NATIONAL BUILDING CODE* (*BUILDING OFFICIALS & CODE ADMINISTRATORS INTERNATIONAL, INC.*) REFERS TO *ASME A17.1* FOR ELEVATORS, *ASME A90.1* FOR MANLIFTS AND *ASME B20.1* FOR VRC'S.

*ANSI B20.1* IS THE SAFETY STANDARD FOR CONVEYORS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT AND SOUTHWORTH DESIGNS AND MANUFACTURES THE VRC'S TO COMPLY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OTHERS (THE INSTALLER, OWNER OR USER) TO ASSURE THE COMPLETED INSTALLATION CONFORMS TO *B20.1* AND ANY LOCAL CODES OR STANDARDS WHICH MAY PREVAIL. COPIES OF *ANSI B20.1* ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

IN THE LATEST EDITION OF *B20.1-2000* THERE IS REFERENCE IN THE FORWARD TO AN IMPORTANT PUBLICATION. THIS IS THE "*APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR VRC'S*" AS PUBLISHED BY CONVEYOR PRODUCT SECTION OF THE MATERIAL HANDLING INSTITUTE (MHI). THIS APPLICATION GUIDELINE WAS DEVELOPED FROM A CONSENSUS AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE INDUSTRY AS TO DESCRIPTIONS, SPECIFICATIONS AND GUIDELINES BELIEVED TO REPRESENT THE INDUSTRY'S BEST PRACTICES. AS A PERFORMANCE STANDARD *ASME B20.1* DEFINES THE END PERFORMANCE. HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT PROVIDE THE DETAIL ON HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THAT RESULT. THESE GUIDELINES PROVIDE INFORMATION ON HOW USERS AND OPERATORS CAN INSURE THE SAFE APPLICATION AND PROPER UTILIZATION. THE GUIDELINE PRESENTS RECOMMENDED SAFETY PRACTICES FOR VRC'S AS WELL AS INFORMATION FOR PARTIES ENGAGED IN THE PURCHASE, INSPECTION OR USE OF VRC'S. LASTLY, THESE GUIDELINES HELP ESTABLISH COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY GUIDELINES AND MINIMUM DESIGN CRITERIA WHEN USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH *ASME B20.1*. COPIES OF "*APPLICATIONS GUIDELINES FOR VRC'S*" ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

WHEN EXISTING EQUIPMENT IS BEING RETROFITTED, UPGRADED OR EVEN CHANGED, IT IS IN THE CUSTOMERS BEST INTEREST TO BRING THE EQUIPMENT UP TO TODAY'S STANDARDS. IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT SOUTHWORTH'S PRODUCT SUPPORT DEPARTMENT.