Belt storage and handling

- Belt quality will not change significantly within 12 years of proper storage.
- Ambient temperature should be less than 30°C and relative humidity less than 70 %.
- Temperature should not exceed 46°C; each 8°C of increase in temperature will shorten the storage life by 50%.
- Avoid direct exposure to the sun.
- It is recommended to store the belts horizontally either on shelves or in boxes.
- SKF does not recommend vertical storing of belts but if it is necessary due to space limitations then stock pegs should be smooth and have a min. diameter of 25 mm.
- Avoid crimping of timing belts as this causes fractures in the belt cords.

Monitoring helps prolong life

One of the first rules for good maintenance is to monitor a drive regularly at pre-planned intervals.

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SKF Power transmission products





Belt drives

Main important factors of pulley and belt maintenance

Belt tensioning

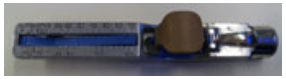
Belt tensioning is a frequently overlooked factor in proper drive maintenance. A properly tensioned drive should have an efficiency of almost 97%.

If improper tensioning allows a 4% slip, efficiency drops off to approximately 93%. As the slip drops to 6%, excess amount of heat is generated.



- It is important that all the belts on the drive have the same tension.
- Do not over tension!
- Be sure to recheck frequently during the first 24-48 hours. It is also a good practice to check tension on a periodic basis.

Belt tension can only be properly checked with a Belt Tension Checker.



Worn pulleys

Before installing a new set of belts, the pulley walls should always be checked for wear. Through continuous use, the pulley walls become "dished" out which reduces the ability of the belt to wedge in the groove.

Pulleys should be replaced when there is a gap between the pulley gauge and the pulley wall.



Misalignment

Misalignement is another V-belt maintenance condition that can cause a loss of efficiency. Misalignment can cause belt slip resulting in belt heat to be built up. These conditions dramatically decrease belt drive efficiency.



Drives should be checked to assure the parallel position of the pulley shafts and correct alignment of the pulley grooves.