

Customer Technical Information Bulletin #5

Safe and Efficient Operation of Coastal Feed Table Bridge Important Information for All Manufacturing/Maintenance Personnel

Dear Valued Customer:

Working around the Infeed Table Bridge may expose you to specific hazards that you need to be aware of at all times. In most instances the lumber is flowing in an end-to-end flow at a very high rate of speed. With the lumber flowing at this high rate of speed, the chances for break-ups and double-ups increase. A potential result may be the increased possibility for the lumber to be ejected from the bridge area. For instance, in the case of double-ups, the lumber can be driven over the top of another board like a ramp, with the potential for the board to eject from the machine's pineapple and bridge area. If an ejection should occur, the potential for injury exists for someone who is unknowingly standing too close to the bridge assembly.

One of the most common ways to avert this problem is to cordon off the area along the pineapple and bridge corridor area. The use of gating, railing and/or other fixtures will keep unauthorized personnel clear of the area, keeping them a safe distance from the machine. When access by authorized personnel is required, they would have to enter through the gate, which can have a limit switch attached, thereby preventing access to the pineapple and bridge area only until the lumber flow is shut down. In some mills, unfortunately, the corridor along the pineapple and bridge area is very narrow and the luxury of a safety corridor does not exist. In these instances, guarding should be installed along the bridge area to help keep break-ups and double-ups contained. The guarding should not, however, be so intrusive that it prevents personnel from performing their jobs of clearing out break-ups and double-ups. As mills achieve higher speeds, the risk for mishaps and accidents increases.

Other preventative measures that can be taken to help reduce safety hazards, and lessen the opportunity for break-ups and double-ups, include:

- More consistent drying of the wood, trying to prevent over-drying
- Eliminating known problem lumber pieces before entrance into the feed table
- Taking a pro-active approach in setting optimum pineapple and short-stock roll tension pressures
- Charging hydraulic accumulators to their designated pressures
- Setting and checking planer and feed-table guides for optimum feeding
- Always having the lumber butt up within 24" of the planer infeed - too often the lumber is butting up back at the pineapples, creating too much tension on the board, therefore increasing the opportunity for more frequent break-ups and double-ups
- Always striving to have the lowest differential speed between the planer and feed table. Again, there are many instances in which the feed table is trying to over-drive the planer while trying to keep lumber at the planer. The board is usually the mechanical weak link between the two, thus creating more break-ups and double-ups

Please, always remember: **Work Smart and Work Safely!**

**To be safe and sure, use *only*
Genuine CoeTM Original Manufactured Parts**

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