

Conveyors: Hold the Restart After a Jam

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Why this matters

A stopped conveyor may restart from another station or release trapped material. Clearing the jam and releasing the system back to operation need separate, controlled decisions.

Objective: Confirm protection and a coordinated release before conveyor restart.

Key hazards or failure points

Unexpected startup; pinch points; moving flights; stored energy; falling material; people at connected equipment.

Practical controls

- Use the equipment-specific shutdown and energy-control procedure. Authorized people protect every exposed worker before jam clearing or maintenance.
- Keep guards and designated crossing routes effective. Never climb, reach into or ride a conveyor to resolve a blockage.
- Coordinate upstream and downstream crews. Restore safeguards and follow the approved return-to-service process before the required startup warning and operation.

Verify It in the Field

From safe access, match the conveyor and connected equipment to the work boundary. Have authorized personnel record the prescribed isolation verification.

Confirm who owns the restart and how all affected people are accounted for. A cleared jam or reset emergency stop is not permission to run.

Have the designated person verify restored guards and required safe control/warning checks. Record results with people clear; never test by entering a nip point.

Stop and reassess

Hold restart for anyone unaccounted for, uncertain isolation, missing protection or failed controls. Resolve the condition, reverify and communicate the authorized release.

Ask the crew

1. Could another station start this conveyor?
2. Who else is exposed along the system?
3. What evidence permits the restart?

Use this HOP tool — Pause when unsure: Before releasing a cleared jam, ask what remains unknown about people, connected equipment or stored energy. Name the person who can resolve each uncertainty and the evidence needed. Keep the affected system protected until authorized verification and the restart handoff are complete.

Sources: OSHA 1926.555, 1910.147; DOE Vol. 2, pp. 16–17. HOP concepts adapted from DOE-HDBK-1028-2009, Vol. 2 (June 2009). No claim to original U.S. Government work; no government endorsement implied.

Free next step: JHA/JSA planning and field-verification worksheet

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/conveyors-jam-clearing-restart