

**L2001 CHAIN PITO** 

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# **ENGINEERING CHAINS** *for the Sugar Industry*







AEC Chains emerge as a new highly engineered chain in the market and are designed to ensure the highest quality and performances. We manufacture many types of chains including Drop Forged Rivetless, Steel Roller Conveyor, Cast Combination, Welded Steel chains and others. Every AEC Chain Component is manufactured using the highest quality of steels or alloy steels.

Our chains receive a proper heat treatment in order to achieve the right balance between resistances to shock loading forces and long wear life. Our main goal is to offer our customer a personalized solution which ensures long-lasting and cost effective chains for the heavy industry applications.





# **AN ENGINEERING CHAIN FOR EVERY STEP OF THE PROCESS**











### 2. Conveyor Traction Chains

Atlantic Engineering Chain (AEC) manufactures and supplies a variety of conveyor chains, also known as engineered or engineering chains. These chains are used as traction elements in heavy-duty conveyors of cane sugar mills, palm oil mills, mines, and other industries. Environment and function of conveyor chains differ a great deal from those of transmission<br>2. Conveyor Traction Chains at a filter Tracticial Centre chains deal of their set of the converse fro chains, covered in the first part of this Technical Section. Instead of lubricant oil, conveyor chains are often immersed in dust, mud, fibers, or liquids that are normal constituents of the carried product. By nature, conveyors may be long, and the weight of the chains becomes a significant part of the total mass in movement. Therefore, engineering chains should be strong, light, and inexpensive at the same time. me vergin other industries. Environment and function of convergences in movement, mercrore, engineering enamo onoura chains, agric, and inexpensive at the same time. **LNAINS**<br>nanufactures and supplies a variety of conveyor chains, also knov eering chains. These chains are used as traction<br>;, and other industries. Environment and functio eight of the chains becomes a significant part of the total mass in movement. Therefore, engineering chains should

#### **2.1. Chains with Rollers or Bushings and Service Control of the Control of Control of the Control of Control of**  $\alpha$  dust, must be not constituents of the carried product. By nature, constant product. By nature, conveys may be long, and  $\alpha$

In very small conveyors working in clean environments, a modified single-pitch roller transmission chain is sometimes used, but most industrial conveyor chains are double-pitched. The use of double-pitch links reduces the mass and cost of conveyor chains, decreasing the number of articulations per unit length. On the positive side, double pitches allow more control to the control of space for plate attachments. These attachments are bolted to slats, flights, vanes, scrapers, aprons, or buckets that carry puse for place attachments. These attachments are bonca to slats, highes, vance, scrapers, aprons, or basic to that carry<br>or push the conveyed product along the conveyor trace. or pash are conveyed product drong are conveyor ardee. expor chains, decreasing the number of articulat sh the conveyed product along the conveyor trace. the weight of the chains becomes a significant part of the total mass in movement. Therefore, engineering chains should chains showld chai

Regrettably, double pitches make sprockets get bigger. This may be partially compensated dropping sprocket teeth numbers, in some cases down to six. However, sprockets with small teeth numbers display a strong polygonal effect. Such effect excites vibrations that increase stresses in conveyor chain and drive. Striving to compensate this phenomenon, chain speeds are set low: seldom over 1.0 m/s, often below 0.50 m/s, or even 0.050 m/s. However, very low speeds of shahrspeeds are set fow. School over 1.6 m/s, siten selow 6.56 m/s, or even 6.656 m/s. However, very fow speeds of<br>sliding—under 0.035 m/s—may also induce vibrations due to stick-slip. This phenomenon is characterized by a forth transition between static and kinetic friction, when elastic strain of the chain may put some points of it shortly in a zero-speed condition. Surprisingly, stick-slip may happen earlier in the bush/roller sliding pairs of large roller chains, because such pairs slide at a speed well below of chain speed. sliding—under 0.035 m/s—may also induce vibrations due to stick-slip. This phenomenon is characterized by a back and chain speed chain speeds are set low: see the property chain speeds are speed of many parts of harge role; chains, ably, double pitches make sprockets get bigger. This may be partially compensated dropping sprocket teeth speed condition. Surprisingly, stick-slip may happen earlier in the bush/roller sliding pairs of large roller chains, se such pairs slide at a speed well below of chain speed. ttably double pitches make sprockets get bigger. This may be partially compensated dropping sprocket teeth.  $\frac{1}{2}$  is some cases down to six. However, sprockets with small teeth numbers display a strong polygonal effect. Such



Figure 2-1. Straight-plates chain with small rollers **Standard Straight-plates chain with large rollers** 

Figure 2-1. Straight-plates chain with small rollers **Exercise Straight-plates chain with large rollers** Figure 2-2. Straight-plates chain with large rollers Figure 2-2. Straight-plates chain with

provides large rollers, Figure 2-2, whose diameters exceed plate height. This way, chain may roll on a narrow support rail<br>expansion of the control Many conveyor chains are straight-plate roller chains according to ANSI/ASME B29.4, as shown in Figure 2-1. These chains then, yearneyer entire are enarging place renew entire according to much renewal age. There is an option with small<br>use the same bushings and pins as ANSI/ASME B29.1 drive chains, with double length plates. There is an opt diameter rollers, Figure 2-1. These small rollers allow chain plates to slide on a wide support rail. An alternative option of the conveyor. This reduces force and power necessary to pull the chain, although the chain itself becomes somewhat<br>. heavier. Large rollers may be plain (as small rollers do) or may have a flange similar to railroad car wheels. heavier. Large rollers may be plain (as small rollers do) or may have a flange similar to railroad car wheels. Many conveyor chains are straight-plate roller chains according to ANSI/ASME B29.4, as shown in Figure 2-1. These chains  $\mu$ use the same bushings and pins as Ansi $\mu$ as as Ansi $\mu$ as Ansi $\mu$ as Ansi $\mu$ n mins as Ansi $\mu$ as Chains, with small  $\mu$ conveyor chains are straight-plate roller chains according to ANSI/ASME B29.4, as shown in Figure 2-1. These chains use the same bushings and pins as ANSI/ASME B29.1 drive chains, with double length plates. There is an option with small diameter rollers, Figure 2-1. These small rollers allow chain plates to slide on a wide support rail. An alternative option provides large rollers, Figure 2-2, whose diameters exceed plate height. This way, chain may roll on a narrow support rail of the conveyor. This reduces force and power necessary to pull the chain, although the chain itself becomes somewhat





3. Straight-plates rollerless (bushed) c THIRD ANGLE PROJECTION



**Figure 2-3. Straight-plates rollerless (bushed) chain Figure 2-4. Cranked-plates rollerless chain for outboard rollers**

When the conveyed product is a fine and abrasive dust, like cement, or milled coal, it may be stuck in the roller/bushing pair gap. Consequently, the roller stops rotating, and its function is nullified. In these cases, bushed (rollerless) chains as shown in Figure 2-3 are a rational solution, due to its lower cost. The bushings of these chains have the same outer diameter as the rollers of ANSI/ASME B29.1 drive chains, so standard sprocket teeth may mesh normally with them. ike cement, or milled coal, it may be stuck in the roller/bushin shown in Figure 2-3 are a ration, the bushings of the bushings of the bushings of the same outer the same outer same outer same outer the same outer the same outer same outer the same outer the same outer the same outer th  $\rho$  and its function stops rotation, the roller stops rotation is nuclearly and its function is nuclearly the roller stops rotation is nuclearly assumed (roller stops rotation is nuclearly assumed (rollerly the roller) c shown is figure 2-3.1 are chains, so standard sprocket teem may mesh homiany with them.

As an alternative, large rollers with sealed sliding or rolling bearings may be applied. Large rollers inside the chain require special sprockets, but outboard rollers allow the use of standard sprockets. Figure 2-4 shows a chain intended to carry outboard rollers, whose installation is depicted in the exploded view of Figure 2-5. These chains are applied in sugar mill conveyors where the cane, just arrived from the fields, comes along with abrasive soil dust. It is easy to see that the chain in Figure 2-4 has cranked plates. This kind of chain may have any number of links, even or odd, because it is assembled from a single type of link: no special connecting links are needed. in official angle experienced planted planted planted planted plates. The line of links of chain may have any number of links, even of links, even or out it is assembled by the chain may have a set of links of the chain ma pe or  $m_{\rm m}$ , no special connecting mas are necaed.

A new type of conveyor chain is the hollow-pin chain, Figure 2-6, as per ANSI/ASME B29.27 standard. This chain is lightweight and strong, because plates do not have attachments or holes, beyond articulation ones. Parts to be fastened to the chain may be held by bolts passing through the hollow pins. Hollow pins have the same outer diameter as the bushings in ANSI/ASME B29.1 series chains. Pins are locked to outside plates by riveting, elastic clips, or cotter pins. The bushings in Altsi, Asiac BES. I series change. This are focked to outside plates by Treamg, elastic elips, or cotter pins. The<br>bushings have the same outer diameter as the rollers in ANSI/ASME B29.1 series chains. Therefor of these chains are in fact bushed chains. Large roller variants of hollow-pin chains have rollers with the same outer diameters as ANSI/ASME B29.4 large roller series chains. When maximum strength is asked from ANSI/ASME B29.27 chains, the standard covers a solid-pin variant, shown in Figure 2-7. These pins may have outboard extensions—plain or enalis, the standard covers a sond pin variant, shown in right 29.4 mese pins may have oddoon a extensions plain or<br>threaded—of maximum diameter. The remaining parts are identical to the hollow-pin variant. chains of the standard counters. The semaning parts are rechted to the nonow pin variant. diameters as as as ANSI/ASME B29.4 larger roller series chains. When may never advanced chainsens plant of plant community and recently a solid-pin variant covers a solid-pin variant.



Figure 2-5. Large flanged outboard roller installed on a chain link entity and the same of Figure 2-6. Hollow-pin roller chain



**Figure 2-7. ANSI/ASME B29.27 chain with solid pins Figure 2-8. Dropforged rivetless chain**

More types of roller or bushed chains may be found in the pages of this catalog, which solve specific chain conveyor problems in sugar mill, mining, and other industries. All chains belonging to this first group share a set of common characteristics, due to the cylindrical form of their rollers and bushings, which mesh with sprocket teeth.

### 2.2. Chains without Rollers or Bushings

A second group of conveyor chains in this catalog cannot be included in the above-mentioned group, because driver sprocket teeth do not mesh with rollers or bushings, but with the link plates. Link plates in these chains have partial or complete external cylindrical surfaces, often with a slight crowning. These external cylindrical surfaces mesh with driver sprocket teeth, to transfer movement from the latter to the chain. These chains do not have rollers or bushings, only pins that never get in contact with sprocket teeth.

One example from this group is the dropforged rivetless chain, Figure 2-8, as per ANSI/ASME B29.22 standard. An outer link of this chain has two outer plates and two pins, while an inner link has a single hollow inner plate. As shown in Figure 2-8, plate ends have external semi-cylindrical surfaces with crowning. Big radii of curvature and crowning of these surfaces, allow a well-localized contact with sprocket teeth, despite their modest dimensional precision, assuring a satisfactory abrasive wear life. In addition, chain/sprocket mesh is fully open, and not prone to the packing of dust or fibers.

Driver sprocket for this type of chain is usually a single sprocket with teeth that mesh with the ends of the inner links. Accordingly, this sprocket only meshes with every other chain link. Two other driver sprocket designs exist; however, they are seldom applied due to their complexity. Certain applications do not drive this type of chain using sprockets, but socalled caterpillar drives: auxiliary power transmission chains with special dogs that engage voids between consecutive outer plates of the chain. Dropforged rivetless chains are strong and light, and may be assembled or dismantled without tools. The introduction of these chains in 1919 revolutionized automobile assembly lines, and is the best solution still today. Currently, these chains are used also in many other applications, from wash and feed cane conveyors and overhead big bag sugar conveyors in sugar mills, to heavy carbon anode handling in aluminum industry plants.

Other chains that belong to the second group are 900 Class Pintle Chains, Figure 2-9, widely used in intermediate carrier slat conveyors of sugar mills, which move crushed sugar cane from one roller mill to next in the tandem row. Made of bronze, the links of these chains have lateral cylindrical barrels. The sides of these barrels mesh with a double sprocket teeth, in an open gear pair where juice soaked bagasse fibers cannot build-up and clog the mechanism. Pins are made of carbon or stainless steel. To prolong the life of the costly bronze links, their pinholes are usually protected with bushings. These steel bushes may be replaced when worn, allowing the bronze links to be used more than once. However, in no way this is a bushed chain, because such protective bushings never take part in the mesh with sprocket teeth.





**Figure 2-9. 900 class pintle chain Figure 2-10. Forked link of a Redler chain**

Redler chains are made of forked links, similar to the one shown in Figure 2-10. These links have a single plate, forked in the front end, and with a yoke at the back end. The holes of the fork articulate with the yoke of the preceding link through a short pin, usually locked by an elastic ring or a safety nut. Flights of different configurations may be welded to the links or bolted to the pins. Made of hardened steel, these chains are key components of the so-called *en-masse* drag conveyors. They are able to transport a wide variety of dry bulk products, in hermetically closed casings, along combined horizontal, inclined, and vertical traces. This chain is driven by double sprockets, which mesh with flat or semi cylindrical back-of-thefork surfaces of every link. lar to the one shown in Figure 2-10. These links have a single plate, forked i or a safety nut. Flights of different or a safety nut. Flights of different configurations may be welded to the links eceding link through  $\Omega$  wolded to the ing link throu

### 2.3. Chain Conveyors and Elevators

In chain conveyors, one or more traction chains pull the load to move it from one point to other. However, this basic function may be done in different ways. According with the aims of this section, chain conveyors may be divided into two groups, as follows.

- 1. Conveyors where the traction chains carry the load;
- 2. Conveyors where the traction chains do not carry the load.

In the first group, conveyor load is carried on troughs, trays, buckets, or hangers, bolted to and moving together with, the chains. In the second group, the load is pushed by flights attached to the traction chains, which force it to slide in a stationary trough or other support media. Table 2-1 shows five typical examples of the two groups of conveyors, adding details about the type of load handled and the load supporting and pushing elements.

able 2-1. Basic groups of chain conveyors, its characteristics, and examples					
Conveyor group	Traction chains carry the load	Type of load	Load support	Load pusher	Examples
1	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Bulk</b>	Mobile troughs or trays	None	Apron conveyors
			<b>Buckets</b>		<b>Bucket elevators</b>
		Unit	<b>Hangers</b>		Hanging conveyors
$\mathfrak z$	<b>No</b>	<b>Bulk</b>	Fixed troughs	Flights	Drag conveyors
			Load floors		Scraper conveyors

**Table 2-1. Basic groups of chain conveyors, its characteristics, and examples**





Figure 2-11. Apron conveyor carrying hot ore in a mining plant http://www.figure 2-12. Drag conveyor carrying bagasse

As the apron conveyor shown in Figure 2-11, conveyors of the first group do not slide the load over its support. In this case, the ore is supported by a mobile trough. The bottom and walls of the trough are made of steel slats and side plates, bolted on the two traction chains located beneath the trough. Observe that these chains have outboard rollers that run on steel rails. Therefore, the friction between ore and its support is static, which does not develop resistive power. Only the friction between the traction chains and their support rails should be taken into account to determine the opposition to movement of the conveyor. to movement of the conveyor. the friction between the friction chains and their support rail between to determine the supportermine the opposition to movement of the conveyor.

Conveyors of the second group slide the load on its support, as the drag conveyor shown in Figure 2-12. In this case, conveyor flights attached to the traction chains push the bagasse along a fixed trough. Consequently, the friction between both media develops resistive power, which should be computed, and added to the produced by the friction of traction chains against their support rails. As a result, the calculation of the opposition to movement of the conveyor is done with different formulas. Traction chains of the conveyor shown have internal large rollers that run on steel rails. different formulas. Traction chains of the conveyor shown have internal large rollers that run on steel rails.

Scraper conveyors, like the one shown in Figure 2-13, belong to the second group because the load is not carried by the traction chains. Instead, conveyor flights scrap directly on the heap of material to be conveyed. In this case, the gypsum scrapped by the conveyor flights slides over the layers of gypsum located below it.



**Figure 2-13. Scraper conveyor reclaiming gypsum in a storage hall Figure 2-13. Scraper conveyor reclaiming gypsum in a storage hall Figure 2-13. Scraper conveyor reclaiming gypsum in a storage hall**



Many conveyors have a single, straight trace, with a given inclination, as shown in Figure 2-14. It is easy to see that a single trace may be horizontal, inclined, or vertical. Vertical conveyors are also called elevators. The general case is the inclined conveyor, which reduces to one of the two particular cases when the inclination is null or maximum. The total length of a conveyor is usually given by the center distance  $a$  between traction chain sprockets. Besides, an inclined conveyor has a horizontal length  $L$  and a height  $H$ , as seen in Figure 2-14. A horizontal conveyor has no height, and an elevator has no horizontal length. In the same figure, you may observe that horizontal and inclined conveyors need support for the traction chains (illustrated as a line with curved ends) both in the upper and in the lower branches. Elevator chains usually do not need said support. Very short horizontal or nearly horizontal conveyors may not have support for the lower branch, which simply hangs from its sprockets, taking a natural catenary shape.

A number of conveyors have a complex trace, composed of two or more straight segments, with different inclinations. Nevertheless, they may be decomposed into single segments to simplify their analysis.



**Figure 2-14. Inclination cases of single, straight trace conveyors**

#### 2.4. Capacity of Chain Conveyors

Single, straight trace conveyors have two branches. Usually, one branch is loaded and the other is unloaded, so the capacity of the loaded branch will be the conveyor capacity. However, there are conveyors where both branches may be loaded, totally, or only in sectors of its length.

The capacity of a loaded branch is usually expressed by its mass capacity, given by Equation 2-1.

$$
C_m = q_L \cdot v \qquad \qquad \text{Equation 2-1}
$$

Where:

 $C_m$  is the mass capacity of the loaded branch [kg/s].  $q_L$  is the load mass per unit length of the loaded branch [kg/m].

 $v$  is the speed of the conveyor chain [m/s].

Sometimes, the capacity of a loaded branch is expressed by its volume capacity, given by Equation 2-2.

$$
C_V = C_m / \rho
$$
 Equation 2-2

Where:

 $C_V$  is the volume capacity of the loaded branch [m<sup>3</sup>/s].  $C_m$  is the mass capacity of the loaded branch [kg/s].  $\rho$  is the apparent density of the load [kg/m<sup>3</sup>].

### 2.5. Resistance to motion in conveyor branches

To develop intended capacity, a conveyor needs to move their loaded and unloaded branches, against or in favor of the weight forces and the friction forces acting on the load, chains, and other parts. This subsection gives formulas for the calculation of the force of resistance to motion,  $R$ , of conveyor branches under different cases of loading. This force should be provided by the traction chains at the pulling end of the involved branch. The pulling end of a branch is the one pointed by the direction of its speed of movement. If  $R > 0$ , this means that the branch increases tension of the preceding sectors of the traction chains. On the contrary, If  $R < 0$ , this means that the branch decreases tension of the preceding sectors of the traction chains.

### 2.5.1 Generalities about resistance to motion

The friction factor  $f_c$  for chains that slide against their support rails is given in Table 2-2.

**Table 2-2. Friction factor for sliding chains**



The friction factor  $f_c$  for chains that roll against their support rails is given in Table 2-3.

#### **Table 2-3. Friction factor for rolling chains**



The apparent densities  $\rho$  and angles of repose  $\phi_r$  of a number of bulk load materials, as well as the friction factors  $f_l$  of the same sliding on steel, are given in Table 2-4.

**Table 2-4. Apparent density, repose angle, and friction factor against steel of load materials** 

Load material	$\rho$ [kg/m <sup>3</sup> ]	$\phi_{\rm r}$ [°]	$f_L$ [1]
Alumina	$676 - 826$	50	0.36
Ashes, dry	$570 - 650$	$45 - 48$	0.50





A measure of how heavily loaded a conveyor is, may be given by the load mass per unit length of its loaded branch. In some conveyors, the load is continuous and laterally unbounded. In these cases, the load mass per unit length of loaded branch is given by Equation 2-3.

$$
q_L = A \cdot \varphi_A \cdot \rho \qquad \qquad \text{Equation 2-3}
$$

Where:

 $q_L$  is the load mass per unit length of the loaded branch [kg/m].

 $A$  is the nominal transversal area of the continuous laterally unbounded load flow [m<sup>2</sup>].

 $\varphi_A$  is the mean transversal area filling factor of the continuous load flow [1].

 $\rho$  is the apparent density of the load [kg/m<sup>3</sup>].

In some conveyors, the load is supported by a trough, whose lateral retaining walls avoid material spills beyond their limits. If the load is continuous and laterally bounded by retaining walls, the load mass per unit length of loaded branch is given by Equation 2-4.

$$
q_L = B \cdot W \cdot \varphi_A \cdot \rho \tag{Equation 2-4}
$$

Where:

 $q_L$  is the load mass per unit length of the loaded branch [kg/m].

B is the width of the load trough  $[m]$ .

 $W$  is the height of the walls of the load trough [m].

 $\varphi_A$  is the mean transversal area filling factor of the load trough [1].

 $\rho$  is the apparent density of the load [kg/m<sup>3</sup>].

If the load is discontinuous, the load mass per unit length of loaded branch is given by Equation 2-5.

$$
q_L = (V/l_V) \cdot \varphi_V \cdot \rho \tag{Equation 2-5}
$$

Where:

 $q_l$  is the load mass per unit length of the loaded branch [kg/m].

V is the volume of each load container  $[m^3]$ .

 $l_V$  is the pitch of the load containers along the length of the loaded branch [m].

 $\varphi_V$  is the mean volume filling factor of load containers [1].

 $\rho$  is the apparent density of the load [kg/m<sup>3</sup>].

The resistance to motion of an unloaded conveyor branch moving downwards is given by Equation 2-6.

$$
R_U = q_C \cdot g \cdot (L \cdot f_C - H) \tag{Equation 2-6}
$$

Where:

 $R_U$  is the force of resistance to motion of the unloaded branch [N].

 $q_c$  is the chain mass per unit length [kg/m], including attachments and load support, pushing or scraping elements.

 $L$  is the horizontal length of conveyor [m].

 $g$  is the acceleration of gravity, 9.81 m/s<sup>2</sup>.

 $f_c$  is the friction factor of the chain running on its support rail [1], given in Table 2-1 or Table 2-2.

 $H$  is the conveyor height [m].

In certain conveyors of both groups, the conveyed load may slide against two stationary retaining sidewalls that avoid material spills. A parameter that characterizes the opposition to motion due to this sliding, is the equivalent mass sliding on sidewalls per unit length of the loaded branch, given by Equation 2-7.

 $q_w = w^2 \cdot \lambda \cdot \rho$  **Equation 2-7** 

Where:

 $q_w$  is the equivalent mass sliding on sidewalls, per unit length of the loaded branch [kg/m].

 $w$  is the depth of load material against the sidewalls [m].

 $\lambda$  is the horizontal pressure factor [1].

 $\rho$  is the apparent density of the load [kg/m<sup>3</sup>].

The value of  $q_w$  may be null due to two reasons: There is no load material pressing against existent stationary retaining sidewalls ( $w = 0$ ), or there are no stationary retaining sidewalls in the conveyor.

The horizontal pressure factor is given by Equation 2-8.

$$
\lambda = 1 - \sin \phi_r
$$
 Equation 2-8



Where:

 $\lambda$  is the horizontal pressure factor [1].

 $\phi_r$  is the angle of repose of the load material [°], given in Table 2-4.

#### 2.5.2 Loaded branches of first group conveyors

The resistance to motion of a loaded conveyor branch moving upwards is given by Equation 2-9.

$$
R_{LI} = ((q_L + q_C) \cdot f_C + q_w \cdot f_L) \cdot L \cdot g + (q_L + q_C) \cdot H \cdot g
$$
\nEquation 2-9

Where:

 $R_{LI}$  is the force of resistance to motion of the loaded branch [N].

 $q_L$  is the load mass per unit length of the loaded branch [kg/m], given by Equation 2-3 or Equation 2-5.

 $q_c$  is the chain mass per unit length [kg/m], including attachments and load support elements.

 $q_w$  is the equivalent mass sliding on sidewalls, per unit length of the loaded branch [kg/m], given by Equation 2-7.

 $L$  is the horizontal length of conveyor [m].

g is the acceleration of gravity, 9.81 m/s<sup>2</sup>.

 $f_c$  is the friction factor of the chain running on its support rail [1], given in Table 2-2 or Table 2-3.

 $H$  is the conveyor height [m].

#### 2.5.3 Loaded branches of second group conveyors

The resistance to motion of a loaded conveyor branch moving upwards is given by Equation 2-10.

$$
R_{LII} = ((q_L + q_w) \cdot f_L + q_C \cdot f_C) \cdot L \cdot g + (q_L + q_C) \cdot H \cdot g
$$
\nEquation 2-10

Where:

 $R_{LII}$  is the force of resistance to motion of the loaded branch [N].

 $q_L$  is the load mass per unit length of the loaded branch [kg/m], given by Equation 2-4.

 $q_w$  is the equivalent mass sliding on sidewalls, per unit length of the loaded branch [kg/m], given by Equation 2-7.

 $q_c$  is the chain mass per unit length [kg/m], including attachments and load pushing or scraping elements.

 $L$  is the horizontal length of conveyor [m].

 $f_L$  is the friction factor of the load sliding on trough material [1], given in Table 2-4.

g is the acceleration of gravity, 9.81 m/s<sup>2</sup>.

 $f_c$  is the friction factor of the chain running on its support rail [1], given in Table 2-2 or Table 2-3.

 $H$  is the conveyor height [m].

#### 2.6. Chain Pull, Driving Force, and Driving Power

Two essential variables in a conveyor are:

- 1. The maximum tensile force acting on the chain,  $T_{max}$  [N], also known as chain pull.
- 2. The force exerted by the chain on the drive sprocket,  $F_D$  [N], also known as driving force.

Although their values may be close, and even equal sometimes, these forces represent two different concepts that should not be confused about each other. The value of the chain pull is necessary to select a chain with the appropriate strength to do its work as traction element of the conveyor. The driving force value is needed to determine the mechanical power that the conveyor will demand from its drive, through the drive sprocket and its shaft. In any case, Equation 2-11 holds.

$$
T_{max} \geq F_D \tag{Equation 2-11}
$$

Detailed calculation procedures of chain pull, driving force, take-up force, and driving power for two typical chain conveyors follow on.

#### 2.6.1 Apron Conveyor

A sketch of an upward inclined apron conveyor working under load is given in Figure 2-15. The drive sprocket is always located at the head of the conveyor, where the loaded branch ends. Load is charged at the tail and discharged at the head of the conveyor. This layout assures the best distribution of tensions along the traction chain. Tail sprocket should include a constant force take-up device, to maintain an optimum chain engagement with its sprockets.



There are four characteristic points along the chain, shown and numbered in Figure 2-15:

1. Here the chain exits the drive sprocket. This point, or point 2, is where the lowest tension of the chain takes place.

2. Here the chain enters the tail sprocket.

3. Here the chain exits the tail sprocket.

4. Here the chain enters the drive sprocket. This is usually the point of highest tension of the chain.

**Figure 2-15. Inclined apron conveyor working under load**

Since the apron conveyor is a conveyor of the first group, it is possible to pose the following equations:



 $T_2 = T_1 + R_{II}$  Equation 2-13

$$
T_3 = T_2 \cdot K_S
$$
 Equation 2-14

$$
T_4 = T_3 + R_{LI}
$$
 Equation 2-15

$$
F_D = T_4 \cdot K_S - T_1
$$
 Equation 2-16

Where:

 $T_1$  to  $T_4$  are the chain tensions in points 1 to 4 [N].

 $R_U$  is the resistance to movement of the unloaded branch [N], calculated from Equation 2-6.

 $R_{LI}$  is the resistance to movement of the loaded branch [N], calculated from Equation 2-9.

 $K_S$  is the factor of resistance to movement of chain on sprockets [1], generally between 1.05 and 1.08.

 $F_D$  is the driving force [N].

Once the value of  $T_1$  is chosen according to Equation 2-12, the other tensions and the driving force are obtained from the remaining four equations. The biggest chain tension takes place in point 4. Therefore,

$$
T_{max} = T_4
$$
 Equation 2-17

The take-up force at the tail sprocket is given by Equation 2-18.

 $F_T = T_2 + T_3$  **Equation 2-18** 

11

Where:

 $F_T$  is the take-up force at tail sprocket [N]  $T_2$  and  $T_3$  are the chain tensions at points 2 and 3 [N].



#### 2.6.2 Drag conveyor

A horizontal drag conveyor working under load is sketched in Figure 2-16. The drive sprocket is always located at the head of the conveyor, where the loaded branch ends. As previously said, the pulling end of a branch is the one pointed by the direction of the speed of movement. Load is charged at the tail and discharged at the head of the conveyor. This layout assures the best distribution of tensions along the traction chain. Tail sprocket should include a constant force take-up device, to maintain an optimum chain engagement with its sprockets.



There are four characteristic points along the chain, shown and numbered in Figure 2-16:

1. Here the chain exits the drive sprocket. This point, or point 2, is where the lowest tension of the chain takes place.

2. Here the chain enters the tail sprocket.

3. Here the chain exits the tail sprocket.

4. Here the chain enters the drive sprocket. This is usually the point of highest tension of the chain.

**Figure 2-16. Horizontal drag conveyor working under load**

Since the drag conveyor is a conveyor of the second group, it is possible to pose the following equations:



$$
F_D = T_4 \cdot K_S - T_1
$$
 Equation 2-23

Where:

 $T_1$  to  $T_4$  are the chain tensions in points 1 to 4 [N].

 $R_U$  is the resistance to movement of the unloaded branch [N], calculated from Equation 2-6.

 $R_{LII}$  is the resistance to movement of the loaded branch [N], calculated from Equation 2-10.

 $K_S$  is the factor of resistance to movement of chain on sprockets [1], generally between 1.05 and 1.08.

 $F_D$  is the driving force [N].

Once the value of  $T_1$  is chosen according to Equation 2-19, the other tensions and the driving force are obtained from the remaining four equations. The biggest chain tension takes place in point 4. Therefore,

$$
T_{max} = T_4
$$
 Equation 2-24

The take-up force at the tail sprocket is given by Equation 2-25.

$$
F_T = T_2 + T_3
$$
 Equation 2-25

Where:

 $F_T$  is the take-up force at tail sprocket [N]

 $T_2$  and  $T_3$  are the chain tensions at points 2 and 3 [N].

In drag conveyors, chain tension in all points of loaded branch should be high enough forthe flights to stay close to vertical. If tension near point 3 is not high enough, it may be necessary to increase the value of tension  $T_1$  chosen in Equation 2-19 to obtain appropriate values for  $T_3$  and the remaining tensions.

#### 2.6.3 Driving Power

Once the chain pull is known, it is easy to determine the mechanical power drawn by the conveyor from its drive. This power is given by Equation 2-26.

$$
P_D = K_A \cdot F_D \cdot v \qquad \qquad \text{Equation 2-26}
$$

Where:

 $P_D$  is the mechanical power drawn by the conveyor from its drive [W].  $F<sub>D</sub>$  is the driving force of the conveyor [N], as given in subsections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2.  $v$  is the speed of the chain in the conveyor [m/s].  $K_A$  is application service factor [1], as given in the first part of this technical section.

### 2.7. Traction Chain Selection

Conveyor chains usually work in a highly contaminated environment, where lubrication oil is mixed with the conveyed material, or the former is in fact substituted by other less proper substances as water or sugar cane juice, for example. In addition, many chain conveyors are used inside furnaces, where the temperature is high. All these factors make the selection of conveyor chains a non-established technical science. This explains why a formal selection procedure, similar to the existent for power transmission chains, has not yet been standardized.

The de-facto standard is based on the ultimate tensile strength (UTS) of the chain, using a so-called safety factor according to very general guidelines. The UTS of a chain, measured in standard tensile test machines, is an objective measure of the static load the chain may endure before breaking. However, well before breaking, the chain elongates plastically, and becomes useless. Therefore, the allowable working force of a chain should be many times less than the UTS, applying a safety factor not less than seven. To cope with the dynamic behavior typical of conveyor chain operation, a service factor is also applied in the selection calculation, based above all on practical experience.

A number of sources suggest checking the chain for pressure (*p*) and pressure-speed product (*pv*) on the bush/roller pair. The basis of this check lies in the fact that in a reasonably clean environment, a well lubricated standard engineering steel chain may work satisfactorily during 15 000 hours under a bearing pressure of 1 800 000 Pa, if the sliding speed in the pair does not exceed 0.15 m/s. However, under real plant conditions of operation, it is difficult to make a sound prognosis of the working life under any given *p* and *pv* values. Consequently, many manufacturers cite, but do not enforce the bearing pressure and speed check, and rely mainly on the UTS safety factor method. This is the state of the art nowadays.

The maximum tensile force on the chain, obtained as explained in subsection 2.6, is linked to the ultimate tensile strength of the selected chain by Equation 2-27.

$$
T_{max} \le K_N \cdot Q_{mean}/(K_A \cdot S_F) \tag{Equation 2-27}
$$

Where:

 $T_{max}$  is the maximum tensile force acting on conveyor chains [N], as obtained in subsection 2.5.  $Q_{mean}$  is the mean ultimate tensile strength of the selected chain [N], recorded in chain tables.  $K_A$  is service factor of the application [1], as given in the first part of this technical section.  $K_N$  is the multi-strand factor [1], as given in the first part of this technical section.  $S_F$  is the safety factor for strength of the chain [1], as given in Table 2-5.



The multi-strand factor takes into account that the maximum tensile force may be exerted sometimes by a sole chain, more frequently shared by two, and by three or more in big conveyors.

When the application needs an especial level of reliability, the minimum ultimate tensile strength  $Q_{min}$  is applied in Equation 2-27, instead of the mean value. Regarding the safety factor, a value linked to the speed of the chain is a rational approach, as given in Table 2-5. Within the ranges of  $S_F$  given, the higher values should be adopted when more reliability is asked for the application, or when the number of teeth of sprockets is close to the minimum.



#### **Table 2-5. Safety factor for strength of conveyor chains**

### 2.8. Units of Measurement

In the Technical Section, all variables are expressed using the basic units of the International System of units, also known as SI. This makes the equations simpler, and avoids the confusions usually arisen when customary units or different multiples and submultiples of SI units are mixed in a single application. Nevertheless, in chain engineering practice, customary units are needed, and will be needed for a long time to assure best professional communication at all levels of activity: from plant & workshop to the enterprise.

How to proceed rationally in this important subject? Our suggestion is as follows:

- 1. Take all the data in customary units, and convert it to the basic SI units.
- 2. Make all the calculations in the basic SI units, following this Technical Section.
- 3. Take all the calculation results needed, and convert them to the customary units.

Steps 1 and 3 require tables of conversion factors. For the convenience of our customers, a group of selected unit conversions linked to the contents of this Technical Section is given to three significant digits and alphabetically ordered, in Table 2-6. To make the conversions straightforward, all units in the table appear once in its first column.

#### **Table 2-6. Unit conversions**









AEC hopes that the closing Technical Section of the AEC Catalog on Engineering Chains will be useful for you, our distinguished user. In case of extremely hot or cold temperatures, or the presence of corrosive substances, or a special class of conveyor, or any other design, operational or maintenance concerns, AEC Technical Department will be glad to assist you in the best chain selection for your conveyor.

### **MAIN CANE CARRIER CHAIN**

AEC Main Cane Carrier Chains manufactured with great diversity of component's materials & design reach ultimate tensile strengths up to 312,000 pounds. They are strong and long-lasting and are available in 6", 8" and 12" pitches. All known mounting configurations to accommodate carrier slats (on page 19) are available



For available component's materials & design refer to pag 20 . Attachments: A1/A2, A42, D5, K1/K2, G19







#### **MAIN CANE CARRIER WITH CHAIN ROLLERS**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.

# **DROP FORGED RIVETLESS CHAIN**



AEC drop forged rivetless chain is one of the strongest and widely used in Sugar Mill applications, with both horizontal and vertical operation capability you can find them in trolley, flight and drag conveyors over irregular routes. Despite regular type with only pins hardened, X-type are furnished with all components heat treated to obtain high tensile and transverse strength.

Attachments: S-22, Extended Pin.





#### **X-STYLE & STANDARD DROP FORGED RIVETLESS CHAIN**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.

### **BAGASSE CARRIER CHAIN**

AEC Bagasse Carriers are designed for long and fast conveyors. They feed bagasse to the Boiler and Stores efficiently. The component's materials are carefully selected to withstand wear and shock loads. Pins, rollers and bushings are heat treated up to 62 HRC, sidebars could be black oxide to fight corrosion.







### **Roller Conveyor Plain Chain**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.

# **BAGASSE CARRIER CHAIN**



### **BAGASSE CARRIERS**







### **Hinged Bucket & scraper Flight Wings**



 $7e + 005$ 

3179e+005

 $2.890e+005$ 

 $2.601e + 0.05$ 

2.313e+005

7e+005

<u>| 58e+006<br>|Мах: 3.467е</u> 809e+004  $2.922e+0.04$  $3.593e+002$ 

### **MAIN CANE CARRIERS**

AEC Main Cane Carriers with Outboard Roller Style Apron Conveyors are heavy duty, long lasting solution for most demanding carrying applications. With outboard rollers, easy to remove for inspection and replacement, the maintenance operations are economic and simple.

**PITCH** 

 $\phi$  R

**OUTBOARD ROLLER CANE CARRIER CHAIN** 

**PITCH** 



 $\overline{\phi}$ D

 $\forall$ 

Ŕ

Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.







### **ORB STYLE APRON CONVEYORS**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.

# **CAST COMBINATION CHAINS**

AEC Cast Combination Chains are the solution where heavy loads are accompanied with high abrasive materials such as in cane feeding tables. The inside links, fabricated from cast ductile iron, side bars from high carbon steel and heat treated pins assure tensile strengths up to 67000 lbs. Multiple attachment configurations give these chain great versatility to suit most demanding applications. Attachments: A22, K1/K2, F2, F30, G19, G6, S-1





#### **CAST COMBINATION CHAIN SPECIFICATIONS**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.









### **CAST COMBINATION CHAIN WITH S-1SP ATTACHMENTS**



# **CAST COMBINATION CHAINS (ATTACHMENTS)**





**A22**

**S-1SP**





**C132-S1**

**C131 F2**



**C132-K2**



AEC Welded Steel Mill Chains are extensively used in most conveying/driving applications, they are rollerless chains with precision-welded components such as high strength sidebars and tubular barrels. Great variety of attachments make this chain suitable to a wide variety of application.

Attachments: H2, K1/K2, A1/A2, F10, F30, RR









#### **WELDED STEEL MILL CHAIN SPECIFICATIONS**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.

# **WELDED STEEL CHAINS (ATTACHEMENTS)**

*H2, K1/K2, A1/A2, A255, F4, F10, F30, RR, WING*





**RR**

**A255**







**K2**



**WINGS**



# **STANDARD PINTLE CHAINS**



AEC Standard pintle chains, also called 400 class pintle chains, is a lightweight, non-expensive chain capable of handling average loads at slow or intermediate speeds. It is proportionately cast for balance, strength and long, efficient service in drive, conveying and elevating applications. The head of each pin is notched to fit the sidebar locking lug which keeps the pin from rotating when the chain is in use. Closed bearing construction makes 400 Class Pintle Chain useful in conveying moderately gritty and abrasive materials.Attachments: A1R, A1L, A12R, A12L, A22, A88, D5, D15, K1/K2, F2,F16, F29, G1, G19







 $\mathbf{I}$ 

### **PINTLE CHAIN SPECIFICATIONS**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.

# **900 CLASS PINTLE CHAIN**

AEC 900 Class Pintle Chain, "sugar mill" or "intermediate carrier chain" is used extensively in sugar mills in those places where combination of sticky sugar juices and dirt is able to build-up and create functioning problems in the sprocket teeth.

900 Class Chain is assembled with T-headed pins which are locked into place by two lugs cast on the ends of the driving barrels to prevent pinrotation and minimize bushing wear. Carbon steel heat treated pins and carbon steel case hardened bushings are standard. However, stainless steel pins and bushings can be provided when specified. Attachment: E51







### **900 CLASS PINTLE CHAIN**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.

# **ROLLERLESS CHAINS**



AECrollerless chains also known as "Steel bushed" are an ideal solution for applications under dusty & abrasive materials such as ashes, coal, cement, gravel in conveyors and elevators. All components are carefully machined and heat treated for highest strength and wear resistance. Precision machining assures perfect functioning and pitch control; sidebars lock bushing's position allowing only pins to freely rotate during operation.

Attachments: A1/A2; K1/K2/K3/K6/K22/K23/K24/K25/K35/K44/ K443; S-1





#### **ROLLERLESS CHAINS**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.

# **ROLLERLESS (BUSHED) CHAIN ATTACHMENTS**



K2, K22, K23, K24, K25






## **ROLLERLESS (BUSHED) CHAIN ATTACHMENTS ROLLERLESS (BUSHED) CHAIN ATTACHMENTS**





ER857 K44



ER859 K44



ER864 K443





## **DRIVE CHAINS**

AECOffset Side Bar Drive Chain is a heavy duty power transmission chain. Pins, Bushings and Sidebars are made from high quality fully heat treated alloy steels. Pins and bushings with surface's hardness above 60HRC are grounded for high power transmission efficiency. For special applications where the bearing load is extreme the Roller/Bushing design is replace for an over dimensioned bushing and pin (rollerless design) in combination with higher sidebars.







#### **DRIVE CHAINS**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.

## **WIDE STEEL DRAG CHAINS**



AEC Wide Steel Drag Chains are stronger and more resistant to wear than their equivalent cast chains. Pins, barrels and side bars are fabricated of medium carbon steel, heat treated to reach great toughness, bending yield strength and shock resistance. They offer wider range of attachment links providing great flexibility to suit different applications. Attachments: Wings, C1, C3, C4, RR





#### **WELDED STEEL DRAG CHAIN**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.

## **REDLER TYPE DRAGGING CHAIN**

AEC Redler type dragging chains could be cast or forged steel type depending on conveying materials and application requirements. Flights are usually welded, some designs take bolted attachments to facilitate maintenance and replacement. Attachments: T, U, UA, UB, UC





### **REDLER TYPE DRAGGING CHAIN**



Average ultimate streght depends on material and heat treatment selection, various alternatives are available to suit different application requirements.







## **CHAIN FLIGHTS**



# **PALM OIL MILL CONVEYOR CHAIN**

AECengineering roller conveyor chain in palm oil industry combines diferent design options to suit today's most demanding applications. The components are carefully heat treated to prevent decarburization of critical zones. Improved finishing of surfaces with precise dimensioning reduce bearing pressure and extend chain life, shot peening of bushings and sidebars assures toughness and wear resistance.



Solidworks and FEM analisys are CAD tools integrated to AECchain design and development process. Today our Simulations and 3D models guarantee our prototypes are tough enough to withstand extreme conditions of most efficient mills in palm oil industry.





Chrome Alloy Steel pins, bushings and rollers are carefully machined to design tolerances; including precision grinding after heat treatment. Case hardening and shot peening are standard procedures to achieve optimum performance.



Alloy Steel sidebars include precise machining for pitch control and tight fit of components. Heat treatment (thru hardening) and shot peening assures long chain life and improve wear resistance

## **PALM OIL MILL CONVEYOR Solid Pin Chain and Hollow Pin Chain**





W\* EXTENDED PIN AVAILABLE (ADD SUFIX EP)







To repair engineering chains, the complete links or sections should be replaced, so the main operation required is limited to disassembly/ assembly of the pin/connector. The AECAssembly/Disassembly Tool DCH30-2 reduces down-time while preventing from hammering or heating, without any damaging of the original press-fits and the consecuently reduction of chain fatigue life.





The DCH30-2 is designed to handle a very diverse range of Engineering chains, shape, dimensions and weight is different from one another, the key is to use the right Adapter for each chain.

Each Adapter set is composed of insert, saddle, ram and spacer. To order the right DCH30-2 is always mandatory to start specifying what chains you'll use the tool for, so we can include the correct Adapter sets.

#### **Each DCH30-2 tool set includes:**

Assembly/Disassembly Tool with 30 ton Cylinder Adapter set (insert, saddle, ram, spacer ) Hand Pump, pre-set to 10000 psi. Hose Instruction Manual

### 1. Power Transmission Chain Drives

#### 1.1. Chain Transmissions and Their Chains

Atlantic Engineering Chain (AEC) manufactures and supplies short pitch precision roller chains, according to the standard American series (A series) of ANSI/ASME B29.1 and ISO 606. An exploded view of the structure of these chains is shown in Figure 1-1. The parts of the chain are: 1) Outer plate, 2) Inner plate, 3) Pin, 4) Bushing, and 5) Roller.





**Figure 1-1. Parts of a short pitch precision roller chain Figure 1-2. Riveted chain on a small sprocket**



An inner link comprises two bushings press-fitted into the holes of two inner plates; before the assembly, a roller is slidefitted into the outside of each bushing. On the other hand, an outer link is composed of two pins press-fitted into the holes of two outer plates; before the assembly, each pin slide-fits inside the bushing of an inner link. This way, a short chain of three links is make up. The continuation of this assembly process allows making a chain strand with any number of odd links, where both its ends are inner links. To lock in place the parts of the chain, pins ends are usually riveted, as shown in Figure 1-2. In large pitches, pins ends are locked by cotter pins instead.

To close any odd-linked strand into a continuous even-linked chain, the ends of the former may be joined with a standard additional outer link, the so-called standard connecting link. This is the strongest type of continuous chain, thanks to its fully homogeneous structure. The making of such a continuous chain is better done in the original factory, or in a workshop with appropriate tools and trained personnel. In the field, or in an unprepared workshop, it is difficult to press-fit the closing plate of a standard outer link on its pins. For these cases, a special connecting link is available, with a detachable plate whose holes slide-fit into the pins. This plate is locked in its place with a spring fastener, Figure 1-3, or by cotter pins in large pitches. When a spring fastener is used, the chain should move only in one direction: with the closed end of the fastener pointing forward. A detachable connecting link is easy to close and open, but the chain loses about 20 % of its plate fatigue strength with respect to the homogeneous chain.

If, due to unavoidable circumstances, an odd-linked continuous chain is needed, a strand with an even number of links is closed with a cranked link, as shown in Figure 1-4. Usually, the pin of this kind of link slide fits into the plates. Such a chain should move only in one direction: with the narrow section pointing forward. Besides, a chain with a cranked link loses at least 35 % of its plate fatigue strength with respect to the homogeneous chain. To tackle this problem, a special two-pitch cranked link is available. It consists of a cranked link and a normal (parallel-plate) link connected with a press-fit pin. This two-pitch cranked link may be used to close an odd-linked strand to give an odd-linked closed chain. This chain will be as strong as the connecting links used to join the two-pitch cranked link with the rest of the chain.







**Figure 1-3. Connecting link with spring fastener Figure 1-4. Cranked link with cotter pin**

Pin/bushing pairs are articulations that allow every link of the chain to rotate a wide angle with respect to its immediate neighbors. Thanks to these rotations, the chain may wrap around each sprocket in the transmission, and the resulting meshing allows the transmission of motion and force. The rollers slide over the bushings, making rotational pairs. When a sprocket tooth engages with the chain, the involved roller rolls its outer surface over the tooth profile. At the same time, the inner surface of the roller slides on its bushing over a considerable support area. These actions reduce friction in the sprocket/chain meshing. In consequence, a well-installed and lubricated short pitch precision roller chain transmission has an energy efficiency between 97.5 % and 98.5 % at full load.

This class of transmission chains has the widest range of types, sizes, operating speeds and transmitted powers. Hence, they are used in many different industrial applications. Setting up a chain transmission involves a chain, a lubrication system, as well as sprockets mounted on appropriate shafts. Sometimes, accessories such as tighteners and dampers are also included. Most complex—and usually weakest—element in the transmission is the chain itself. A well-selected chain may give years of reliable service with minimum total costs, and is the first step in the design of a new power transmission or the checkup or reengineering of an existent one.

As all machine elements, chain selection must be based on its load capacity, which is limited by several mechanisms of failure. There are two basic types of failure: catastrophic and gradual. A *catastrophic failure* is a sudden, difficult to predict event that ends the working life of the element. In contrast, a *gradual failure* arrives after a long period of slow and visible deterioration, easily monitored by condition-based maintenance. Short pitch precision roller chains exhibit three modes of catastrophic failure, as follows:

- Fracture of plates, due to pulsating traction fatigue;
- Fracture of rollers and bushes, due to impact fatigue;
- Seize of pin and bush mating surfaces, due to adhesive wear (galling).

In the two first modes of catastrophic failure, the steel of the involved parts undergoes variable loads, and develops tiny fatigue cracks in the weakest points of its structure. The growth of the cracks reduces, without visible symptoms, the strength of the plates, until a sudden fragile fracture breaks the plate or the roller/bushing pair, and the whole chain itself. The third mode of catastrophic failure involves the breakdown of the lubricant film between the roller/bushing rotating pair, due to a combination of high load and speed. Then, thin oxide films that usually cover the mating steel surfaces are wiped off. Cold weld points quickly arise between the two parts, which are immediately broken. The transfer of material from one part to the other and back destroys the surfaces and generates intense heat, noise, and smoke. After a very short time, pin/bushing pairs seize, forcing the chain to break.

If catastrophic failure modes are absent, short pitch precision roller chains exhibit a mode of gradual failure: abrasive wear. Due to this physical process, the sliding surfaces of pin/bushing pairs lose material and the clearance between them increases continually. The process may proceed very slowly if the environment is clean and lubrication is appropriate, but it never stops. A contaminated environment and an improper lubrication may increase sharply the rate of wear, usually measured by lost volume of material in unit sliding length. Because of abrasive wear, chain pitch elongates with time, and pitch diameters on the sprockets get bigger and bigger. When the elongation reaches a certain point, the chain begins to jump some of the large sprocket teeth, and the transmission no longer operates properly. In addition, due to the resulting jerks, the weakened chain may be broken, if the transmission is not timely stopped.

Many years of systematic experimental research in test beds, sponsored by manufacturers' organizations like the American Chain Association (ACA) have made possible to determine reliably the rating (load capacity), of power transmission chains working in a non-contaminated environment under appropriate lubrication. In every experiment, a chain is make to transmit a mechanical power  $P_c$  while running at a linear speed v. The rating of the chain is the set of values  $(P_C, v)$  that do not give rise to galling or fatigue, the latter within a probable working life of 15,000 hours. As galling is a very fast process, it is not linked to any working life; it just happens as soon as the corresponding power/speed limit is exceeded.

In a power/speed plane with logarithmic coordinates, the load capacity or rating for a given chain is represented by the grayed region inside the jagged boundary shown in Figure 1-5. This graphical representation is known as the rating chart of the given chain. Said region is delimited by three almost straight-line segments as follows. Over the left inclined segment, the chain fails due to plate fracture. Over the right inclined segment, the chain fails due to bush/roller pair fracture. To the right of the vertical segment, the chain fails due to pin/bushing pair galling. Within the normal working region, the chain on the test bed undergoes just abrasive wear.





Rating charts give a valuable qualitative portray of the factors that shape the normal working zone of transmission chains. In addition, said diagrams may express numerical data on the rating. In these cases, the horizontal axis of the chart does not show chain speed, but the rotational frequency of the small sprocket used in the test bed. An ACA rating chart for the ANSI/ASME B29.1 A series of short pitch precision transmission chains is given in Figure 1-6. This chart covers AEC-USA full line of chains in this class. The number of teeth on the small sprocket for this chart is 25. The power is given in hp, while the rotational frequency scale is given in min-1. ANSI chain number is given next to each individual chart.

Nevertheless, rating charts lack precision as sources of data on chain load capacity. Even with a full-page size, the resolution of a chart is poor, and the reading of the logarithmic scale is always tricky and error prone. Therefore, organizations like the ACA have traditionally published their detailed rating data in table format.





**Figure 1-6. Rating chart for the ANSI/ASME B29.1 standard (A) series transmission chains (25 teeth small sprocket)** 

These tables give the power that may be transmitted by a given chain on the test bed, for a wide range of numbers of teeth on small sprocket, and a wide interval of closely spaced values of its rotational frequency. In addition to the rating values, the limits of application of the different chain lubrication systems are also shown in the tables by jagged line borders. The only calculation needed to use the rating tables in practical calculations is interpolation within set values of the rotational frequency. Despite their good qualities, rating tables are extensive, and take a lot of space in catalog technical sections.

Since a few years ago, the results of chain rating tests are also published as mathematical models, or simply models. In current engineering, models are sets of algebraic or numerical relations. These relations, when computed, behave in a way similar to the physical objects they represent. Currently available rating models are compact and may express the chain rating data as precisely as the tables, without any interpolation needed.

#### 1.2. Selection of Transmission Chains

4

In this subsection, AEC introduces a mathematical model for short pitch precision roller chain selection. This model includes the current ACA chain rating and lubrication model, as an alternative to the low precision of rating charts and the long extension of the rating tables. The ACA model is linked here with a standard model of transmission chain kinematics and statics. The whole model is called *AEC-Power*. This model may be applied by any on-site industrial technical office equipped at least with a basic engineering or scientific calculator.

In the following pages, variables and relations of the *AEC-Power* model are given. Later, based on the same model, a procedure for chain selection in a typical practical situation is shown and applied in an example. Although short pitch precision roller chains may work at high speeds up to 20 m/s and even 30 m/s, many applications involve medium speeds ranging from 4 to 7 m/s, or low speeds, below 4 m/s. The chain selection procedure included in this subsection covers transmissions in all speed ranges expressed above, with two sprockets, horizontal shafts, center distance inclinations up to 60° and single- or multiple-strand chains from the A series of ANSI/ASME B29.1 standard. If your application involves more sprockets, or a life different from 15,000 hours, or a chain length sensibly different from 100 pitches, or inclinations nearer the vertical, or speeds close to the maximum, please refer to AEC-USA Technical Department.

Some model variables are described as "desired." The values of these variables should be carefulset by the problem solver, since the choice may change substantially the results. Namely, they are:

- Desired transmission ratio  $i_d$ : Values from 1 to 3, give compact transmissions; from 3 to 7, become bulkier and heavier.
- Desired teeth number in small sprocket  $z_{1d}$ : It takes values from 11 to 25, in order of increasing chain rating and sprocket diameters.
- Desired relative center distance (in pitches)  $\lambda_d$ : It may take values as extreme as 20 and 80, although the range from 30 to 50 gives better transmissions.
- Desired center distance  $a_d$ : It should be specified only if strictly necessary, leaving the relative value free.

The variables of the *AEC-Power* model are given in Table 1-1. For each variable, the table shows: symbol, unit of measurement, and name. Symbols are alphabetically ordered. In calculations, all variables must be expressed in basic units of the international system (SI), since they greatly simplify formulas and computations. However, staying aware of long-standing traditions, certain variables will be expressed also using other unit systems, always within parentheses.



#### **Table 1-1. Variables of the** *AEC-Power* **model**







The algebraic relations included in the *AEC-Power* model are given in Table 1-2. For each relation, the following information is shown: relation, number, and comment. Units of measurement are SI basic ones in all cases, including the ACA rating and lubrication model, originally developed for customary units of length, rotational frequency, and power. The values of constants included in some relations are usually given in the related Comments field.



#### **Table 1-2. Relations of the** *AEC-Power* **model**



# **TECHNICAL SECTION**

*Power Transmission Chain Drives*



The following three tables are part of the AEC-Power model. Table 1-3 gives the values of the multi-strand factor for chains from one to ten strands. Table 1-5 gives the ACA minimum service factor of the chain transmission in function of the type of prime mover, and the type of load imposed by the driven machine. The information on the ACA type of load of the driven machine, needed in Table 1-5, may be found in Table 1-4 for a wide selection of driven machines.

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#### **Table 1-3. Multi-strand chain factors for roller chain transmissions, according to industry standard practice**

#### **Table 1-4. Types of loads imposed by driven machines, according to ACA**





#### **Table 1-5. Minimum service factors for roller chain transmissions, according to ACA**



Short pitch precision roller chain selections for speed reducing transmissions are everyday problems in industrial drive engineering. Problems in this class may involve design of a new transmission, or the checking/reengineering of an existing one. An engineering problem is well posed when both data (known values) and query (unknowns) are clearly identified. Each compatible data/query combination defines a different problem.

To solve a problem is to find the values of the variables listed in the query. A problem is usually solved using an algorithm, this is, an ordered set of relations from a model of the system, where the unknown values are calculated from the data and the previously calculated unknowns.

A typical example problem in chain selection is posed as follows, to illustrate the application of the *AEC-Power* mathematical model given above.

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Problem Data:

- 1. Driven machine:  $Machine = belt$  conveyor, heavy duty.
- 2. Prime mover:  $PrimeMove$  = geared motor.
- 3. Power needed by the machine:  $P_2 = 11,300$  W.
- 4. Rotational frequency of the high-speed (driver) shaft:  $n_1$  = 2.88 Hz (173 min<sup>-1</sup>).
- 5. Desired rotational frequency of the low-speed (driven) shaft:  $n_{2d}$  = 0.983 Hz (59 min<sup>-1</sup>).
- 6. Inclination of the center distance with respect to the horizontal:  $\delta = \pi/6$  rad (30°);
- 7. A chain with a detachable connecting link is to be used.
- 8. Desired relative center distance:  $\lambda_d$  = 40.
- 9. Desired teeth number in small sprocket:  $z_{1d} = 25$



#### Problem Query:

- 1. Minimum chain application factor:  $K_{Amin}$
- 2. Chain application factor:  $K_A$
- 3. Number of teeth in small sprocket:  $z_1$
- 4. Number of teeth in large sprocket:  $z_2$
- 5. Chain pitch:  $p$  in m (in);
- 6. Relative chain length:  $X$
- 7. Center distance:  $a$  in m;
- 8. Rotational frequency of small sprocket:  $n_2$  in Hz (min<sup>-1</sup>)
- 9. Power to be taken from the prime mover:  $P_1$  in W
- 10. Torque on small sprocket:  $T_1$  in N⋅m
- 11. Torque on large sprocket:  $T_2$  in N⋅m
- 12. Radial force on both shafts:  $F_S$  in N
- 13. Type of lubrication of the chain:  $LubType$
- 14. Maximum relative allowable wear elongation of the chain:  $\varepsilon_{max}$  in %

To solve the above-posed problem, please apply the algorithm developed in Table 1-6. Following the steps of the algorithm, you will find that in each step the concerned relation has only one unknown. The value of this unknown may be directly obtained from the relation with an appropriate calculator. If checking in step 20 is not satisfied, return to step 13 and try with next chain size pitch.



#### **Table 1-6. Algorithm to solve posed example problem**

## **SHORT PITCH PRECISION ROLLER CHAINS (A SERIES)**















## **SHORT PITCH PRECISION ROLLER CHAINS (A SERIES)**









 $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ 











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## **HERRAMIENTAS DE ANALISIS POR ELEMENTOS FINITOS (FEM)**



























Model name: 3002.5A2SPLIN-WELDED<br>Study name: Study 1<br>Plot type: Static displacement Displacement1<br>Deformation scale: 1









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