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AN UPDATE ON NOISE REDUCTION TECHNIQUES



The new MSHA noise standard CFR 30 Part 62 requires the employer to develop and implement a hearing protection program. In response to this standard, J.H. Fletcher & Co. has reexamined the methods we have implemented to reduce roof drill noise and would like to share some of our results and suggestions.

CHASSIS NOISE: This type of noise is primarily produced by the electric motors, hydraulic pumps, belt-driven blowers, and muffler exhaust noise. JHF has the following engineering controls available:

Piston Pumps – These pumps go “on stroke” only when oil is needed. These pumps would require a complete change of the hydraulic system.

Quieter Gear Pumps – Quieter gear pumps with a “dual flank gear” design have been tested. Results have indicated only a 1 dB reduction in noise, however, J.H. Fletcher & Co. will continue to evaluate new pump designs as they become available. This would be a direct retrofit for the standard gear pump.

Hydraulic-driven blowers – This option is now available with a direct drive and allows the operator to turn the blowers off when they are not needed. It is usually automatically controlled in sequence with the TRS circuit.

Auto-dump Pre-cleaner – This feature is primarily used to reduce the operator’s exposure to dust by reducing the number of times the dust box needs to be emptied. It also can reduce exposure to the noise of the air rushing through the drill head when no steel is in the head.

Mufflers – The DVJ blowers have a cooling air inlet with a small muffler (part no. 17808). There is less noise if a larger muffler (part no. 54389) is used. Either muffler is approved for this application.

Physical Barriers- Rubber belt or cover plating can be added between the pump area and the walkway or tram deck to block direct exposure.

Sound deadening/absorbing material – A blanketing material is available to install under machine covers in order to further reduce noise. This material has been tested to ASTM #84 standard and has a flame spread of 7. This is well under MSHA’s

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guidelines of a 25 flame spread index for underground use. This silver quilted material is 1" thick by 48" wide, and comes in 50 ft. rolls (part no. 54670).

This material can be retrofitted to existing machines, as well as installed on new and modernized machines.

DRILLING NOISE: Progress has been made in the reduction of drilling noise through our feedback drilling system that monitors, and then continually maximizes, the various drilling parameters. Tests have shown that this system can have a positive effect on drill penetration rate and bit life. It appears that, in certain roof material, there is some reduction in noise. MSHA is working with NIOSH and manufacturers of drill steel, drill bits and roof bolts to evaluate design suggestions that may reduce noise in the drilling area. The results of these evaluations would not only establish the feasibility of the suggestions, but also provide valuable information to aid private industry in the development of additional noise control techniques.

BASIC NOISE REDUCTION TECHNIQUES:

Listed below are some immediate methods you may want to consider in reducing noise:

- u Rubber Belting – Install rubber belting on drill

steel trays. Belting will deaden the sound of metal hitting metal.

- u Cleaning Dust out of the Drill Steel – An operator may hit a clogged drill steel against the metal machine to unclog it. To minimize this type of noise, the equipment owner can provide a rubber block mounted on the machine. The operator can strike the rubber block to unclog the drill steel.

- u Encourage the continued use of Personal Protective Equipment (ear plugs, ear muffs).

- u Turn off the machine when it is not in use.

J.H. Fletcher & Co. recommends that you examine your machine to see if any of the controls we have identified would be beneficial. JHF will continue to work with MSHA to find new ways to increase noise control.

If you feel that any of the engineering controls currently available would benefit your operation, please contact JHF Engineering or Risk Management department.

LYNCH PINS

A Lynch pin is sometimes used to secure two machine components together. For example, J.H. Fletcher & Co. utilizes lynch pins to hold the driller canopy attachment pins in place. As part of your start of shift check, look at these pins. The pins should be secured like the one on the left in the photo below. If not, simply flip the ring down into the locked position.



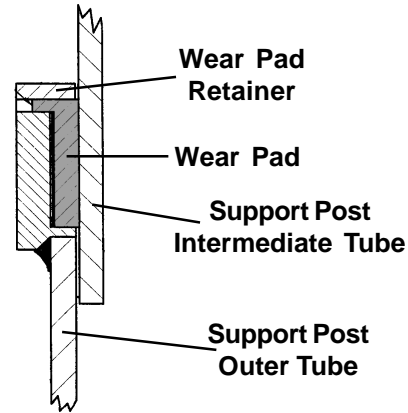
Tram Chain Curtain

J.H. Fletcher & Co. now offers a tram chain curtain assembly (see photo). The curtain can be placed on the side of the roof drill tram canopy to prevent rocks or debris from passing into the tram deck. This device (P/N: 283649) can be easily mounted on the canopy by drilling several bolt holes in the tram canopy and the tram cab chassis. If this device would be of value to you, please contact J.H. Fletcher & Co. or one of our authorized parts distributors.



REDESIGNED SUPPORT POST WEAR PAD

If your machine utilizes support post number 192234, you should be aware that the support post has been updated with a new front wear pad design. Basically, the new retainer and wear pad are mounted on the support post on the front side of the outer tube. J.H. Fletcher & Co. has, within the last two months, designed the wear pad with a lip, which will prevent it from dropping into the support post. If Fletcher rebuilds the support post we will incorporate the new wear pad design.



NEW DISTRIBUTORS

J.H. Fletcher & Co. has formed new partnerships with the following distributors: United Central Industrial Supply Company, CWS Company and DBT. J.H. Fletcher & Co. is still using Shook & Fletcher Supply in Birmingham, AL as a parts distributor and Midwestern Machine & Hydraulics in Nashville, IL as an authorized component repair center. We look forward to working with our new distributors and existing partners in providing OEM components and authorized component repairs of Fletcher equipment for our customers. If you have any questions concerning our distributors or authorized component repair centers, please do not hesitate to call us.

OEM AUTHORIZED NEW PARTS DISTRIBUTORS	OEM AUTHORIZED NEW PARTS DISTRIBUTORS (Continued)	OEM AUTHORIZED NEW PARTS DISTRIBUTORS (Continued)
Alabama Shook & Fletcher Supply Co. Birmingham, AL 205-252-5157	Oklahoma United Central Industrial Supply Company Carterville, IL 618-985-8316	Western United States (Except Oklahoma) DBT America Craig, CO 970-824-3249
Illinois United Central Industrial Supply Company Carterville, IL 618-985-8316	Pennsylvania CWS Company Morgantown, WV 800-327-6203	DBT America Paonia, CO 970-527-3151
Indiana United Central Industrial Supply Company Madisonville, KY 270-821-6333	Virginia United Industrial Supply Company Andover, VA 540-565-0115	DBT America Huntington, UT 435-687-9831
Kentucky United Central Industrial Supply Company Banner, KY 606-874-9201	United Industrial Supply Company Big Rock, VA 540-530-7342	OEM AUTHORIZED MACHINE REPAIR FACILITY
United Central Industrial Supply Company Putney, KY 606-573-6664	United Industrial Supply Company Oakwood, VA 540-498-4787/4777	Western United States DBT America Huntington, UT 435-687-9831
United Central Industrial Supply Company Madisonville, KY 270-821-6333	United Industrial Supply Company Rock Gap, VA 540-928-1511	AUTHORIZED COMPONENT REPAIR CENTERS
Ohio CWS Company Morgantown, WV 800-327-6203	West Virginia (Northern) CWS Company Morgantown, WV 800-327-6203	Midwestern Machine & Hydraulics Nashville, IL 618-327-3095
		DBT America Huntington, UT 435-687-9831
		CWS Company Morgantown, WV 800-327-6203

POLICY FOR WARRANTIES

As a new or repeat customer of J.H. Fletcher & Co. ("Fletcher"), it is important that you understand our warranty policy. Our current warranty policy states that all parts shall be free from defects in material and workmanship. Any part which fails within 90 days, due to these factors, shall be the responsibility of J.H. Fletcher & Co. If you have to return a part for warranty consideration you must contact our Service Department and obtain a Return Goods Authorization Number. Original parts not returned within 30 days of initial shipment of replacement parts will not be granted warranty. For a copy of J.H. Fletcher & Co.'s warranty policy and procedures contact J.H. Fletcher & Co. Risk Management Department.

Meet Our Employees

In 1975 J.H. Fletcher & Co. hired Larry Adkins. Larry is a Bay Leader who is in charge of building the valve chests that are on each Fletcher machine. Through his quiet and tireless leadership, Larry and his crew are able to keep Fletcher's production bays and the aftermarket supplied with valve chests. Larry Adkins, another part of J.H. Fletcher & Co.'s success - it's people.



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