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Your E-Mail

J.H. Fletcher & Co. appreciates you sending us E-mail and answering our web site survey. However, if you are sending in E-Mail requests, we ask that you provide us the following information: NAME, A FULL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR E-MAIL TO: dcooper@jhfletcher.com

Low HDR Utility Bolter (Pocket Bolter)

Many mines have the need to safely bolt roof falls and overcasts. Roof falls and overcast construction can be particularly challenging in mines that have a seam height less than 7-9 feet. Roof falls are troublesome because they are unplanned and uncontrolled. Roof falls can result in a change in roof height of several feet. Roof falls may also result in sloping and uneven ribs and bows. It is extremely important to secure the roof in a safe and efficient manner.

With overcast construction, the height of the working area is intentionally increased. Ramping up in order to use a roof bolter can be a laborious task. Since overcasts involve construction, Fletcher recommends only a construction bolter be used in this application.

In both instances, the roof height may be beyond the maximum operating height for which a Roof Ranger II or DDO bolter is designed. Fletcher posts the range of operating heights on each machine. If the maximum roof bolting operating height is less than the roof height due to a fall or overcast construction, that roof bolting machine should not be used in that application.

Safe and MSHA-approved solutions for dealing with these conditions should be addressed in the mine's roof control plan. However, there are times in which unacceptable and unsafe shortcuts may be attempted. An example of an unsafe and unacceptable work practice would include the use of a roof bolting machine that is not designed for that height. Other examples include using extremely long drill steels, requiring the operator to come out from under his drill canopy; use of long un-collared drill steel that can be over rotated and whip at a high rpm; or climbing onto the drilling boom or drill canopy to reach the ceiling and to insert resin. **Any of these work practices are unsafe and can lead to serious injury or death.**

J.H. Fletcher & Co. has designed and offers a new construction machine for lower seam heights. This machine is self propelled and can be towed. The machine has an onboard tram canopy. It can fit into seam heights as low as 48 inches. The machine has an ATRS that can be set from a remote location under supported roof. After setting the ATRS, an operator can enter his canopy-covered drilling platform and be lifted up so bolts can be safely installed up to 15 feet off the ground. The drill canopy, tram canopy, dust collection system, electrical components and ATRS all meet MSHA requirements for roof bolting machines. The machine includes many of the same components used on your existing roof bolters.

Please contact J.H. Fletcher & Co. for additional details on this machine and how it can be used for your conditions and requirements.



Safety and Maintenance Q & A

Q. Is it OK for me use any dust hose, on the roof bolter?

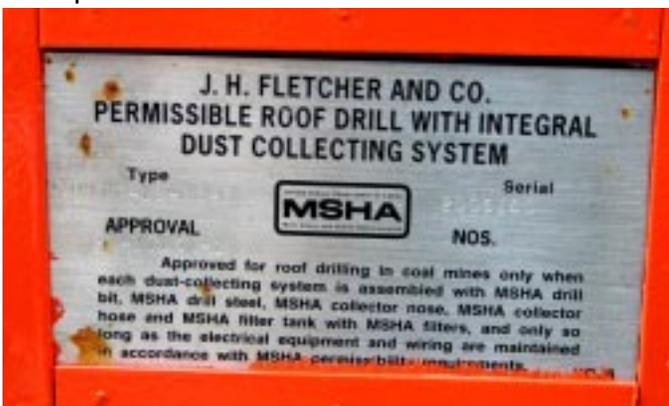
A. NO. The dust suppression system is an approved system. The tag that is on your roof bolter identifies the dust hose as part of the permissible system. Second, If another hose is used it may not be the proper size and construction to handle the dust properly. And third, the hose must be MSHA approved and labeled with the approval number.



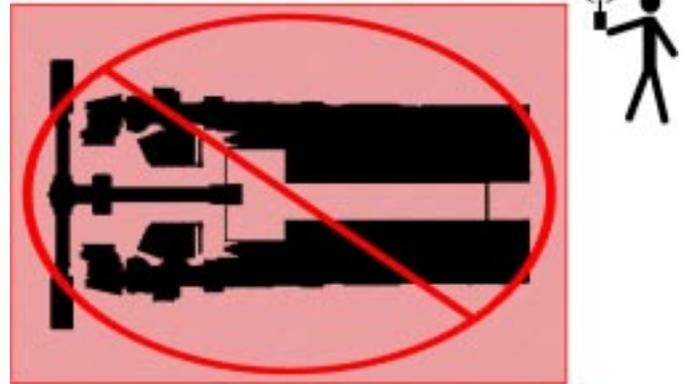
METHANE MONITOR INSTALLATION

Q. Can mine personnel install any brand of methane monitor on a permissible roof bolter?

A. No. All electrical components, including the methane monitor must be approved on the machine 2G approval. This approval number is shown on the machine approval plate.



Q. I have a remote tram roof drill. Is it OK to tram it with the remote while on it.



A. NO. A machine with a remote or umbilical tram does not have a tram deck on the bolter. Trimming while on this model of drill is a violation of MSHA Regulatory Standard 75.1710. The operator and off-side operator must therefore walk behind the machine and position themselves sufficiently away from the machine to tram the machine forward or backward. Any other position for operating the remote or umbilical that places the operator too close to the machine, on the side of the machine, in front of the machine, or on the machine could expose the operator to contact with the roof drill or rib during trimming. See your Operator's Manual under "Tram Options" for remote trimming.

NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

Bulletins 100 & 101

J.H. Fletcher & Co. has mailed two Bulletins recently. Bulletin 100 is regarding the Potential Hazard Involving Mining Trailing Cable. The bulletin includes a letter, training material and a poster (139134).

The second bulletin, information bulletin No. 101, has been sent out specifically to our Mobile Roof Support system owners. This bulletin provides information about the changes that are occurring to transmitters and receivers for MRS.

Both bulletins should have already been delivered to you. If you did not receive one of these, please contact us by email; dcooper@jhfletcher.com or 304-525-7811 for your copy.



J.H. FLETCHER & CO. POLICY

On Modifications and Replacement Parts for Fletcher Equipment

Equipment safety is a responsibility that must be shared by both the manufacturer and the operator. We as an equipment manufacturer, have two concerns in this respect. One concern is the unauthorized modification of our machines, and the other is the use of replacement parts that do not meet original design specifications (non-OEM).

There are certain systems utilized on Fletcher equipment that require government approval or certification by a registered professional engineer. Unauthorized modifications or the use of repaired or replacement components not meeting OEM specifications may result in safety hazards or void the certification or approval of these systems.

We realize that occasional modification will be required to meet changing conditions. Whenever modifications become necessary, we urge you to review the modifications with us to ensure the machine's safety and certification or approval. The way to be assured of maximum machine safety, productivity and reliability is through the exclusive use of genuine Fletcher repaired or replacement parts. Use of Fletcher parts also provides you with the certainty that vital machine certifications and approvals will remain valid.

At Fletcher we want to fully meet our share of the responsibility for maintaining machine safety. If you have any questions or problems concerning modifications or parts, please contact our Service Department. We look forward to providing whatever assistance you may require. SEE ALSO MSHA PROCEDURE INSTRUCTION LETTER NO. 106-V-11 and Program Information Bulletin No. P05-15 for additional information about this subject matter.

Certification Letters

Next Quarter's Issue

The question has come to our parts book manager time and time again: "Does J.H. Fletcher & Co. provide component certification letters with new and modernized machines?"

The answer to this is "YES". J.H. Fletcher & Co. provides certification letters with new and modernized machines. The certification letter can be found in the operator's manual(s) and parts books that are provided with each machine. Please check these two publications before contacting our parts book department.



In the second quarter issue of the Fletcher Product Newsletter, our feature will be on the Fletcher 5th Wheel Prime Mover. If your mine is looking for a solution for transporting materials, supplies, and equipment into the mines efficiently, you will want to read this upcoming issue. In addition, the usual helpful information on maintenance and safe, efficient operation of your Fletcher equipment will be included.

® J. H. Fletcher & Co. has registered "Fletcher"® as a registered trademark, giving the company a specific identification for its products. When you see the trademarked name on your new or rebuilt parts, you can have confidence you are receiving genuine OEM components.

The information contained in this newsletter has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, and the editors have exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy. However, J. H. Fletcher & Co. does not guarantee that contents of this publication are correct and statements attributed to other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of J. H. Fletcher & Co.

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