

J. H. FLETCHER & CO. Box 2187 – Huntington, WV 25722-2187 – 304/525-7811 – FAX 304/525-4025

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 130

TO: ALL OWNERS OF FLETCHER® ROOF DRILLS

**FROM: J.H. FLETCHER & CO.
RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

DATE: April 25, 2018

**SUBJECT: Maximum recommended operating height for
Man-in-position Roof Drills/Bolters**

This Safety Notice outlines J.H. Fletcher & Co.'s ("Fletcher's") recommendations for maximum operating height for Man-in-position Roof Drills/Bolters.

Fletcher's recommendation for maximum machine operating height is 8' (2.4 meters) above the operator's feet. If the machine is equipped with an operator platform, then the maximum machine operating height is the distance from the mine floor to the top of the platform where the operator is standing at its highest point plus 8' (2.4 meters). For example: if a lifting boom roof bolter raises the operator's feet 2' (0.6 meters), off the ground, the machine's maximum operating height would be 10' (3 meters).

Nearly all Roof Drills have Automated Temporary Roof Support ("ATRS") systems that reach (extend) higher than the maximum machine operating height. The ATRS reach is *not* the same as the maximum recommended operating height. In all circumstances the ATRS must sit firmly against the roof. If the ATRS does not reach the roof, contact Fletcher concerning an Original Equipment Manufacture ("OEM") ATRS extension.

If mining conditions require the machine to be used in any area where the roof height is above (exceeds) the recommended maximum operating height, then the machine may only be used if the mine has reviewed and mitigated the following hazards:

- 1) Risk for buckling, bending and/or whipping drill steel: Greater unsupported column length of drill steel, steel extension, (See Fletcher Bulletin 122), wrench, bolt, and combinations of these increases the potential for buckling, bending, and whipping.
- 2) Man-out-of-position: The operator stepping out from under canopy protection to increase reach or improve line of sight to where the hole is being drilled or support

installed.

- 3) Man-out-of-position: The operator climbing on the machine outside of the confines of the operating station to increase vertical reach.
- 4) Environmental changes and adverse conditions: Greater exposure to lateral rib and brow hazards on machines that position the operator between the rib and the machine (outside controls).
- 5) Visibility constraints: Reduced visibility because the roof height is higher than the machine lighting system is designed to illuminate.
- 6) Environmental changes and adverse conditions: The ATRS system does not reach or make proper contact with the roof.
- 7) Man-out-of-position: The operator canopy does not travel high enough to allow the operator to comfortably work under the canopy.

Every mine has unique conditions which can change at any time; therefore, other hazards or risks than those listed above may be present or develop at any given time. Fletcher cannot and does not have the opportunity to be informed when those changed or changing conditions exist, or when a mine may encounter increased mining heights.

Before utilizing any machine in conditions that exceed the maximum machine operating parameters, the machine operator must perform a visual inspection of the area to assess and determine all hazards present or which may develop, and address the existing hazards before proceeding to position the roof bolter. Additionally, mine management must instruct operators about changing and hazardous conditions.

All operators that utilize this machine must be trained on how to properly operate the machine and about what additional precautions against safety risks need to be taken at any point in time. For example, additional roof support may need to be installed or supplemental support with jacks, posts or cribs may be necessary. Operators must be skilled and trained in the assessment of and response to hazards that may develop or exist. All training and the training program must be documented and must include attention to risks and hazards, such as those outlined above, as well as those determined by the mine to exist or which develop at any point in time. The training program must also include safety reminders regarding roof bolting machine operation including but not limited to always using hands-off drilling practices.

Fletcher is available to assist in reviewing any supplemental training materials concerning roof bolting machine operation, should the mine request its expertise.

Additionally, Fletcher offers some modifications for machines (such as ATRS extensions, canopy post extensions, or removable platforms) and tools (such as resin inserters) that can be utilized to mitigate against some of the risks outlined in this document. However, in some situations a different roof bolting machine altogether may be required to do the task of roof bolting safely.

Because Fletcher cannot identify all hazards that occur or may develop, it does not recommend use of a machine when mining conditions exceed maximum machine operating parameters. Each operator must follow safe procedures documented in a full risk assessment conducted on-site and in accordance with the MSHA-approved roof

control plan.

Please contact Fletcher if you have any questions concerning hazard evaluation and risk assessment, training with respect to higher operating conditions or if you would like Fletcher to quote a machine better suited for the application.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MACHINE IDENTIFICATION TAG and WARNING

For many decades Fletcher has installed a welded-on stainless steel machine identification tag on all new and OEM modernized machines. This identification tag usually has been welded on or near the tram compartment. It has informed the customer and user of the machine of the machine type, shipment date, model number, serial number, weight and maximum operating height. The part number for the original tag was/is 19064 and it is shown below.

Beginning in 2012, the 19064 tag was replaced for new and OEM modernized machines and included information concerning the maximum grade in which the machine was designed to be utilized. The part number for this welded-on stainless steel tag was/is 533900 and is shown below.

JHF# 19064 USED UP TO 2012

J.H. FLETCHER & CO. HUNTINGTON, W.V.A.		
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
DATE		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
MODEL	SERIAL NO.	WEIGHT
THIS MACHINE IS MANUFACTURED AND DESIGNED FOR:		
MINIMUM MINE HEIGHT _____		
MAXIMUM MINE HEIGHT _____		
MINIMUM MINE WIDTH _____		
MAXIMUM MINE WIDTH _____		
ALWAYS FOLLOW THE CURRENT ROOF CONTROL PLAN FOR YOUR SECTION, INAPPROPRIATE APPLICATION OF MACHINE CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.		
PART NUMBER: 19064		

JHF# 533900 USED FROM 2012-2018

J.H. FLETCHER & CO. HUNTINGTON, W.V.		
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
MACHINE TYPE		DATE
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
MODEL	SERIAL NO.	WEIGHT
THIS MACHINE IS DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED FOR:		
MAXIMUM MINE HEIGHT _____		
MAXIMUM GRADE _____		
ALWAYS FOLLOW THE CURRENT ROOF CONTROL PLAN FOR YOUR SECTION, INAPPROPRIATE APPLICATION OF MACHINE CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.		
PART NO: 533900		

Effective in 2018, Fletcher has redesigned the machine identification tag and assigned a new part number: 603537. This new tag includes the traditional operator manual (OM) warning for any user of the machine plus an additional warning that instructs the operator to seek information in the operator's manual, (OM), concerning use of the machine in applications which exceed the maximum operating height:

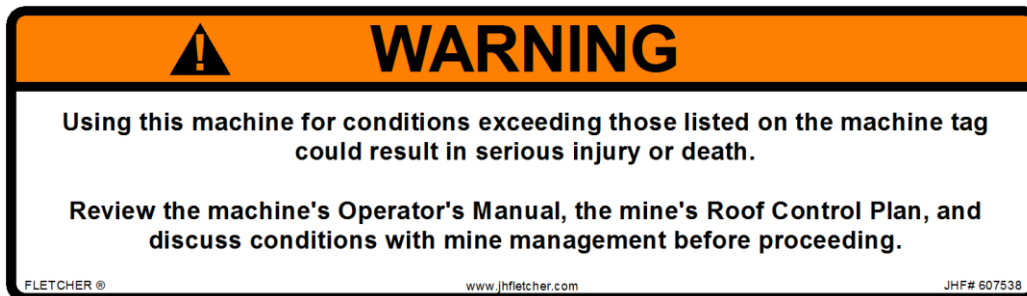
JHF# 603537 NEW STANDARD 2018 -

J.H. FLETCHER & CO. HUNTINGTON, W.V.		
MACHINE TYPE		DATE
MODEL	SERIAL NO.	WEIGHT
! WARNING		
MAXIMUM MACHINE OPERATING HEIGHT _____		
MAXIMUM MACHINE OPERATING GRADE _____		
USING THIS MACHINE FOR CONDITIONS EXCEEDING THOSE LISTED ON THIS TAG COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH. REVIEW YOUR OM, ROOF CONTROL PLANS, AND DISCUSS WITH MINE MANAGEMENT BEFORE PROCEEDING.		
JH FLETCHER & CO. ®		PART NO: 607537

All machines manufactured and shipped prior to 2018 must have warning tag number 603538 added to the machine identification tag. Fletcher is providing this warning tag to be affixed close to the machine identification and serial number tag but not such that it obscures or blocks the ability to read the original tag.

JHF# 603538

TO BE INSTALLED ON MACHINES MANUFACTURED AND SHIPPED BEFORE 2018



This bulletin and the information provided should be posted prominently on your mine's bulletin board, placed in the machine mounted operator's manual holder, (staple it to the existing machine operator manual) and provided to all roof bolting machine operators. If you have misplaced or do not have a current operator's manual, contact our Risk Management Department and a new manual specific to your machine's serial number will be provided free of charge.

This information is vitally important for an operator to read, understand and follow. Failure to do so could result in severe injury or death.

VERIFICATION

If you own a Fletcher man-in-position roof bolter please complete the form (see attached) and return to us, so that we can send you the proper warning tag and operator's literature that identifies the hazards that must be addressed when it is necessary to use the machine in operating heights that exceeds the parameters indicated in this bulletin and/or on the nameplate. If you do not own the man-in-position roof bolter, complete the form so that we can ensure this document gets into the new owners hands.

Fletcher encourages all operators and owners to contact Fletcher with questions about these, or any, subjects concerning the operation of our equipment. You may call your Fletcher Field Representative or the Fletcher office directly at any time. Also, visit our website at www.jhfletcher.com to review all previous Newsletters and Bulletins issued by Fletcher on these, and other, important safety and machine operation subjects.

MACHINE OPERATING PARAMETERS TAG VERIFICATION FORM

Person completing verification form: _____
 Printed Name

 Signature

Title: _____

Name of Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

- () Our company owns a Fletcher man-in-position roof bolter and needs waring tag part number 603538.
- () Our company owns a Fletcher man-in-position roof bolter missing its operator's manual and is requesting a replacement.
- () Our company is not affected by this bulletin.

MODEL	SERIAL NO.	REQUESTING TAG NUMBER 603538	REQUESTING NEW OPERATOR'S MANUAL

PLEASE SEE PAGE TWO OF THIS FORM

COMMENT:

Date: _____

Authorized Representative

Please return to: J. H. FLETCHER & CO.
ATTN: RISK MANAGEMENT DEPT.
402 HIGH STREET
HUNTINGTON WV 25705

CONTROL NO: _____ / _____
Office Use Only