

Polymer rollers produce savings, OH&S benefits

The 21-year-old Kinder & Co is recognised as a leading independent supplier and manufacturer of equipment used to improve and maintain the running efficiency of conveyor and bulk materials handling equipment. Its products are used for ore, quarried materials, grain, sugar, salt and coal.

Founded by Neil and Christine Kinder in 1985, and later joined by director John White, the company is one of the most respected players in the Australian bulk handling sector. It



The new generation of K-Polymer rollers, which are also recyclable.

produces conveyor hardware and products for belt cleaning and maintenance, transfer point flow and anti-wear and screening products.

The company's polymer conveyor rollers — K-Polymer Rollers — have successfully penetrated the market as replacements for traditional metal rollers. Due to the light weight construction of the product compared to steel, the rollers are said to be much safer for manual handling and installation, particularly along conveyor inclines.

The Federal Government's Department of Employment and Workplace Relations has publicly stated that back injuries account for about one third of all workers compensation costs and one third of all workplace injuries. Because the Kinder roller is 50% lighter than steel, such injuries and claims are reduced. With lower rim drag the rollers also draw less energy, producing operational savings in the running of conveyors.

Company co-founder Neil Kinder said the lightness of polymer rollers further reduces prospects of employees lugging steel rollers up steep conveyor gantries and then manoeuvring them under structures into awkward positions.

“As the technology is light, maintenance crews can position them with far greater ease and with less risks of personal injury,” said Mr Kinder. “But they are also robust — a truly heavy duty alternative to the steel shell roller and just as tough.” ■

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