

## Steel Upper Chain Guide Assembly - Spare Parts Kit Availability

Portec previously announced that the design for new power turns produced after August 15, 2009, would include a change in the upper chain guide assembly. The assembly would now be fabricated from steel rather than aluminum, which had been the Portec standard.

A steel upper chain guide assembly is now also available from Portec as a spare parts item. Interchangeable with the aluminum upper chain guide assemblies in the field, it will become Portec's standard spare parts offering in the future. This modification is entirely optional, given that there will be no change in performance or functionality of the power turns.

The modification is being made to improve the survivability of the track in case of a wear guide failure. This gives users additional time to perform corrective maintenance in case of a wear guide failure. Portec recommends that this modification be done if and when the aluminum wear guide is damaged due to extended use under wear guide failure since the aluminum guide will eventually be discontinued.

On new production power turns with the steel upper chain guide, the assembly is affixed to the offset in the slider bed by welding it to the top of the bed. For field installations of the steel upper chain guide assembly, Portec has developed three alternative attachment options:

1. Welding the steel upper chain guide assembly to the conveyor slider bed;
2. Using self-tapping screws to attach the steel upper chain guide assembly;
3. Using rivets to attach the steel upper chain guide assembly.

A complete set of instructions for the field installation, including all three attachment alternatives, can be found by clicking [here](#) or by going to the Portec website.

The steel upper chain guide assembly ships as a kit. It includes both the optional rivets and self-tapping screws, steel upper chain guide assembly, and the horizontal and vertical wear strips. Step-by-step instructions are also included.

The wear strips attached to the horizontal and vertical surfaces of the upper chain guide assembly will be the same material as always. The vertical chain guide wear strip is a Teflon® material that provides very low sliding friction against the chain. The horizontal chain guide wear strip, which the chain rides upon, is High Molecular Weight Polyethylene. This polymer is highly resistant to abrasion and has a low coefficient of friction, making it an excellent choice for the constant contact with the chain.

Once the steel upper chain guide assembly has been installed, only the wear strips – both horizontal and vertical – will require subsequent replacement as they wear out. Portec expects that the steel assembly itself will never require replacement. Please contact your Portec parts sales representative for details and ordering information.

