Understand Static Conductivity in PT Belts

Under certain operating conditions, a belt drive may generate static electricity. This poses a risk with belt drives used in the presence of potentially explosive gases, liquids, powders, dusts, etc., where the possibility of static sparks must be kept to a minimum. Static discharge can also interfere with sensitive electronic circuitry, radios and controls. Belts can be manufactured with materials that facilitate a grounding path for static electricity. It is common in the industry to refer to such belts as "***Static Conductive***."

What does "Static Conductive" mean

A belt or drive must be conductive to allow a clear path for grounding. Another way to think of it is the belt or drive has a path that will allow a static charge to follow and dissipate, as in a lightning rod for example.

Drives that build up a static charge and do not have a clear path to allow the charge to dissipate will eventually dissipate to the nearest ground. When this happens a spark or a static discharge will jump from the drive to the nearest ground. This discharge may cause harm to the drive or even cause a fire or explosion.

As shown below, the vast majority of Continental belts are static conductive:

Continental Static Conductive Products:

- HY-T® Plus
- HY-T® Torque Team®
- Torque Flex®
- Wedge
- HY-T® Wedge Torque Team®
- HY-T® Wedge Torque Team Plus®
- Hex Belts
- SilentSync®
- Falcon Pd™
- Hawk Pd™ - 8M, 14M, 20M
- Blackhawk Pd – 8M, 14M
- Positive Drive - XH, XXH
- Super Torque Pd – S14M

Continental R&D uses special materials to make a belt meet the ISO and ARPM standards for static conductive properties. Not all belts are static conductive, so it is important that you know if your belt is static conductive. Continental belts are branded with a "SC" to indicate that they are static conductive and meet the ISO/ARPM standards (see example below). If you are unsure, please call Continental customer service at 800-235-4632 for assistance.