

## **RESTRAINERS INFORMATION**

The V belt restrainers were introduced to minimise excess handling of livestock, remove discomfort during restraint and generally improve welfare standards. The animals use their flocking instinct to follow each other into restraint with minimal human handling. Once in restraint they sit comfortably and are moved forward by motor rollers driving the side belts which are tilted so they are closer together at the bottom and further apart at the top, thus making a V when viewing from the front or back. The V restrainers are used on farms and in abattoirs to move sheep, goats and calves.

## **CONSTRUCTION & SETUP**

The V restrainers are constructed with a stainless steel box frame with P1000 ware strips installed to reduce friction.

On the majority of V restrainers a 3 ply vinyl belt is used , this is durable and cleans easily.

Each restrainer has two 0.75 kw motors to power the V belts.

There is a manually adjustable tensioner at the back to get the right tension of the belt so the belt does not slip when the motor is operational. The tension should be just right for the maximum number and weight of animals expected, not too tight that the motor will struggle and trip and not too loose that the motor will slip.

Adjustment can be made on most of the V restrainers to close the gap between the belts at the bottom of the V, this will allow smaller animals to enter the V restrainer and ride higher in the V.

These adjustments are usually manual although they can be mechanical in some cases.

## **SPECIES**

The restrainers can be used for sheep, goats and calves.

## **ANIMAL SIZE & WEIGHT RANGES**

The 2 x 0.75 kw motorised drums on the V restrainer based on a 4.5 metre unit will be capable of carrying 450 kilograms from end to end at an incline of 20 degrees.

The feeding of the V restrainer is the responsibility of the operator.

The width of the V restrainer can be adjusted depending on the size of the animal.

The maximum quantity of animals in the v-restrainers should be such that no animal's feet are resting on the back or front of another animal i.e. all four feet should be dangling through the bottom of the V. When the restrainer is used for slaughtering the quantity should be such that there is clear access to the neck of the animal without affecting or being affected by the animal in front.

## **OPERATION & CONTROLS**

Each V restrainer is usually operated with a foot pedal to allow the belts to stop and start. In addition some of the systems have push buttons and timers built into the system to allow locking of the restrainer for a period of time (for slaughtering purposes) and to allow precise individual control of restrainers with forward and back buttons.

This allows more control of the movements of the livestock through the system pre slaughter and post slaughter.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Bearings should be greased on a weekly basis

Electrical connection to the motors to be checked visually

Tracking and tension on belt should be checked weekly

## **SPARES**

Drive motor

Idle drum

Restrainer belt

Electrical components