

BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction
and Maintenance

SECTION G80.410.3
Issue 1, August, 1949
AT&T Co Standard

BODY BELTS
CARE AND MAINTENANCE

1. CLEANING AND DRESSING

1.01 Body belts should be cleaned and dressed at intervals of not more than three months. These intervals should be shortened if the body belt has been frequently wet from rain or perspiration or in cases where the belt is subjected to contact with wet paint. When the body belt is used in connection with the painting of poles, carefully remove any wet paint from the belt with a dry cloth as the ingredients in the paint if allowed to dry on the leather may have an injurious effect on it.

1.02 Tests indicate that creosote is not injurious to leather. However, because the creosote may stain the workman's clothing, it should be removed from the body belt as soon as practicable.

1.03 The following method has been found satisfactory for cleaning and dressing body belts.

- (1) Wipe off all surface dirt with a sponge dampened (not wet) with water. (Never use gasoline as it tends to cause a dry condition of the leather.)
- (2) Rinse the sponge in clear water and squeeze partly dry, then work up a thick lather using a neutral soap, such as castile or white toilet soap (free from alkali).
- (3) Thoroughly wash the entire length of the belt with the lathered sponge to remove embedded dirt and perspiration and wipe with a cloth to remove excessive moisture.
- (4) Proceed as in (2) using a good grade of saddle soap.
- (5) Work the saddle soap lather well into all parts of the belt and place the article in the shade to dry.
- (6) When the leather has practically dried, rub vigorously with a soft cloth.

1.04 In general, treating the leather with saddle soap intermittently will keep the leather soft and pliable for a reasonable length of time. However, from time to time and when the leather can not be made sufficiently soft and pliable by the saddle soap dressing, it should be oiled as described in Part 2.

2. OILING

2.01 Body belts ordinarily require oiling about every six months.

2.02 The following method has been found satisfactory for oiling the leather in a body belt so as to restore it to a pliable condition.

(1) Clean the leather with a neutral soap as described in Paragraph 1.03, (1), (2), and (3). (Oil applied to dry or dirty leather has a harmful effect on the leather.)

(2) While the leather is still damp use on each belt about 1/4-ounce (two teaspoonfuls) of neatsfoot oil and apply the oil gradually with the hands using long light strokes to work it into the leather. A light even distribution of the oil is desired.

Note: Do not use mineral oils or greases such as machine oil or vaseline. Leather should never look or feel greasy as this is an indication that too much oil is being used. Leather with too much oil will stretch and is likely to pick up sand or grit which may injure the leather.

(3) After oiling, the belt should be set aside in a dry shady place for about 24 hours in order to permit the leather to dry slowly; then rub vigorously with a soft cloth to remove excess oil.

3. GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

3.01 The following precautions should be observed when body belts are not in use:

(a) In the event that a body belt is received with insufficient oil, it should be oiled in accordance with Part 2.

(b) When not in use body belts should be oiled in accordance with Part 2 at least once every six months. The belt should be oiled three months after it has been received for stock and at intervals not longer than six months thereafter as long as it remains in stock.

(c) Body belts should never be stored with edged tools.

When body belts, safety straps, and climbers are kept in the same container, the climbers should be fitted with

gaff guards to prevent damage to the leather by the climber←
gaffs.

(d) Never store or place body belts near radiators, stoves, steam pipes, or in places where the leather would be subjected to excessive heat or dampness. Either of these conditions is likely to impair the strength of the leather. Belts that have become wet should be treated as described in Part 2 and then set aside in a dry shady place and allowed to dry slowly.

4. DISPOSITION OF BODY BELTS REQUIRING REPAIRS

4.01 Body belts which have developed major defects shall be withdrawn from service for repairing or junking. Employees in the field shall see that such belts in their possession are returned to the storeroom tagged or marked "Dangerous Do Not Use" and if practicable the belt shall be marked to show the location of the defect. If the Company has established the practice, employees remote from the storeroom shall destroy and dispose of junked belts on the job if instructed to do so by the supervisor.