



## **Spreader Beam/Load Beam Operator Safety Manual**

### **Introduction**

Bushman AvonTec manufactures a wide variety of spreader beams designed to match the customer's material handling requirements. Each beam is engineered to permit ease of use, safety and durability.

For simplicity spreader beam will be used in this brochure as a generic term for beams used to lift.

Spreader beams are frequently designed for specific applications that require the addition of application-specific hardware. For this reason, you must review the safety information pertinent to all attachments and hardware used with your spreader beam. Please see the certified drawing for your spreader beam for additional safety data and operational information from Bushman AvonTec.

### **Reviewing the Decals**

#### **Decal sites**

Sometimes spreader beams are furnished with hardware that has a higher capacity than the lifting beam itself. This may be due to the customer's dimensional criteria. For example when an oversize hook is needed to pick up a certain load. Nonetheless, the rated capacity of the beam can never be exceeded. The dead weight of the object to be handled plus the weight of the lifting beam cannot exceed the rated capacity of the crane(s) to which it is attached.

### **Inspection procedures**

Safe operating practices require scheduled inspection procedures to ensure that the spreader beam is maintained in a safe operating condition. An individual record of inspections, such as the one on the back cover of this manual, must be maintained for each spreader beam. Call Bushman AvonTec if you need additional copies of the log.

Some spreader beams are equipped with a powered drive assembly for rotation, telescoping or bail adjustment. Before inspecting or servicing any spreader

beam that is so equipped, disconnect, lock open and tag the power source to prevent power from being applied during inspection or repair procedures (ANSI Standard Z244.1). Before beginning repairs, try the operational controls to verify that the power source is actually disconnected.

The spreader beam must be inspected visually at the beginning of each shift to be sure it is in safe operating condition and that all attachments are fully engaged and tight. All capacity, weight and safety markings must be in place and legible.

Periodic inspections of the spreader beam must be scheduled at least every six months. Units used in high duty cycle environments require more frequent inspections. For example, steel mills, foundries and paper mills may need monthly inspections.

Critical inspection sites are noted on page \_\_\_\_\_. Periodic inspections must check for at least the following conditions:

- Loss of weld integrity
- Signs of structural fatigue or deformation
- Wear on connecting pins, chains, shackles, hooks or other hardware
- Wear in excess of 20 percent of original on bail, connecting pins, hooks or associated hardware

Spreader beams with any of these problems must be removed from service immediately.