



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

November 20, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM:

Gretchen Harrington
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

SUBJECT:

Approval of Unibelt, Uni SNB M2 34% Blue Acetyl - Rubberized Belt

The Unibelt, UNI SNB M2 34% Blue Acetyl (Unibelt) with a rubberized surface, has been reviewed for regulatory compliance and is approved for use with an approved flow scale head in accordance with Appendix A to 50 CFR part 679. NOAA has reviewed and tested the Unibelt with a rubberized surface to ensure it was in compliance with federal regulations.

In order to assess the performance of the Unibelt a series of tests were conducted, and approximately twenty seven metric tons of weight was run over the belt. Three types of tests were conducted to determine if the Unibelt would perform similarly to the standard belts already in use in the Alaska Fisheries.

- The primary test was comparing the performance of the Unibelt and the standard belts when level. After testing the belts weight readouts were consistent between belts, the percent error was also consistent and on average did not exceed more than three-tenths of a percent error.
- The secondary test consisted of adjusting the flow scale to different degrees of incline and decline. Both the Unibelt and the standard belt were tested at varying degrees. The percent error for the standard belt had a thirty eight percent error when set at a fifteen degree max incline, while the Unibelt, at a fifteen degree max incline resulted in approximately a two percent error. The Unibelt would meet daily testing requirements at a high incline, and the standard belt would not.
- The final test was to test how the belts perform when a worn belt is switched out for an unused belt. The comparison was typical of an annual inspection and there was little to no difference.

As a result of the above testing, NMFS Alaska Regional Office has concluded that the rubberized Unibelt should have no major impact on the true weight readout, and may be more accurate in inclement weather than the standard belt. It was also determined that the Unibelt meet all federal requirements outlined in Appendix A to 50 CFR part 679. Therefore the Unibelt, Uni SNB M2 34 % Blue Acetyl, may be used at sea in conjunction with a NMFS approved at-sea scale.

