

Conveyor Belt Splicer interview questions

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What to expect

Conveyor Belt Splicer interviews are practical and safety-weighted. Employers are trying to work out whether you can produce a splice that holds, whether you understand isolation and permit requirements without being reminded, and whether you will still be reliable on a remote site three weeks into a swing.

- **Technical process:** How you prepare, cure and finish a splice, including step length, cover stripping, press setup, temperature and cure time.
- **Safety and isolation:** Your approach to lock out tag out, permits, confined space and working at heights around conveyors.
- **Fault finding:** How you diagnose a splice that is lifting, a belt that is tracking off, or damage that keeps recurring in the same spot.
- **Behavioural:** Past examples of defects you picked up, shutdowns you worked through, and how you have handled pressure on the job.
- **Scenario and judgement:** What you do when the shutdown window moves, the press fails, or a supervisor asks you to skip a step.
- **Suitability and lifestyle:** Fitness, heat, dust, roster work, travel and remote site living, plus your tickets and medical currency.

Typically a phone or video screen with a recruiter or maintenance supervisor covering tickets, medical, roster availability and experience, then a site or workshop interview with a fixed plant supervisor or leading hand. That second stage often includes a practical component: identifying belt damage, talking through press setup, or completing a VOC on the tools. Some larger operators add a short safety scenario or a written aptitude and medical questionnaire before an offer. Expect questions about specific belt types, splice methods and shutdown experience rather than general chat.

1. Walk me through how you prepare and finish a hot vulcanised splice on a steel cord belt, from arriving at the conveyor to signing the job off.

Why they ask

This is the core technical question. The interviewer is checking you know the sequence and the tolerances, not just that you have been near a press.

How to structure your answer

Use a chronological walk-through. Move through isolation and belt positioning, marking and squaring the cut, stripping covers and rubber, laying cords and applying the splice rubber, press setup and clamping, then cure temperature and time, cooling, and final inspection and tracking after tensioning.

Example answer

"First I confirm the belt is isolated, tagged and locked, and that the permit covers the work. I position the belt so the splice sits on a level section, then mark and square the ends using a straight edge so both cuts are true. I strip the top and bottom covers to the specified step length, remove the rubber down to the cords, and lay the cords out evenly without crossing or gaps. I clean the surfaces, apply the splice rubber and cover stock, then set up the press so the platens sit square over the joint and clamp it evenly. I bring it up to cure temperature and hold it for the full cure time rather than pulling it early, then let it cool under pressure before releasing. After tensioning I run the belt and check tracking and the splice edges before signing it off."

2. Tell me about a time you found a belt defect that other people had walked past.

Why they ask

They want evidence you actually inspect belts rather than only splicing them, and that you speak up about what you find.

How to structure your answer

Use STAR. Set the situation and the belt you were on, state what you were responsible for, describe how you spotted and reported the defect, then give the outcome in terms of what was prevented or how the repair was scheduled.

Example answer

"I was doing a routine inspection along a drift conveyor and noticed the belt edge was starting to fray in one short section, with the cords just visible. It was easy to miss because it was on the return side and there was no obvious spillage. I stopped and looked closer, took photos and measurements of how far the damage ran, and logged it in the CMMS with the position marked so the fitters could find it. The supervisor pulled the belt out of service for a short window and we cut the damaged section out and spliced it. If it had been left, that edge would have kept peeling and we would have been looking at a full belt change instead of a short repair."

3. You are halfway through curing a splice and the shutdown window moves forward. What do you do?

Why they ask

This tests judgement under pressure. The wrong answer is that you pull the press early to hit the schedule.

How to structure your answer

Name the risk first, then state what you will and will not do, then explain how you escalate and communicate. Finish with how you would document and inspect the result.

Example answer

"The cure time is not negotiable, so the first thing I do is tell the supervisor straight away that the press cannot come off early without risking the splice. I would give them the actual remaining time so they can plan around it. If the window genuinely cannot move, I would ask whether the belt can be isolated and left with the press on until the cure finishes, and I would document that the belt is not available. Once it is cured and cooled properly I would still inspect the splice fully and track the belt before it goes back into service. What I would not do is release the press early and hand back a joint I know is suspect."

4. How do you approach isolation and permits before you start work on a conveyor?

Why they ask

Conveyors are unforgiving equipment. The interviewer needs to hear that isolation is automatic for you, not something you need prompting on.

How to structure your answer

Answer in order of operations: hazard identification, isolation and lock out, permit and gas or atmosphere checks if relevant, confined space and height controls, then communication with the crew before starting.

Example answer

"Before anything else I check the isolation for the conveyor and any associated equipment, apply my own lock and tag, and confirm it with the control room. I make sure the permit covers the task and the location, and I run through a take 5 or JSA with the crew so everyone knows the scope and the exclusion zones. If the work is inside a chute, bin or confined space I check the atmosphere and make sure the entry permit, standby person and rescue arrangements are in place. For work at height I confirm the platform, ladder or harness setup before I climb. I also make sure no one else is relying

on the belt staying still for another job before I start.”

5. A splice you finished two days ago is lifting at one edge. How do you investigate it?

Why they ask

This is a fault-finding question. They want to see whether you can work backwards through the causes instead of guessing or blaming the belt.

How to structure your answer

Work through the likely causes systematically and explain how you would rule each one in or out, then describe the temporary and permanent fix.

Example answer

“I would start by looking at the splice itself: whether the edge is lifting along the full length or just in one spot, and whether the rubber is under-cured or the cover was cut too thin there. Then I would check the belt condition around it, because edge damage and mistracking will pull a splice apart. I would look at tracking, the condition of idlers and pulleys in that section, and whether material is building up at a skirting or scraper. I would check my splice records for cure temperature and time, and whether there was any moisture or contamination on the cords when it went together. In the short term I would monitor it and plan a repair window rather than let it run until it fails, and once I had the cause I would fix that as well as the splice.”

6. This job involves long swings, remote locations, heat and dust, and a lot of time on your feet. How do you manage that side of it?

Why they ask

Employers want to know you will last the roster and stay with the crew, because replacing a splicer mid-swing is expensive.

How to structure your answer

Be honest and practical. Cover how you manage hydration, rest, fitness and recovery during a swing, then how you handle being away from home and working with a small crew.

Example answer

“I treat the roster as part of the job rather than something to survive. I stay on top of hydration and eat properly during the swing, use the breaks I am entitled to, and pace myself on the hot days instead of trying to push through it. I keep a reasonable level of general fitness in my own time because the work is physical and being conditioned makes a big difference by day ten. Away from work I keep contact with family and keep a routine on site, which is what makes the swings manageable. I have worked with small crews in remote areas before and I know that turning up consistently and being easy to work with matters as much as the technical side.”