

Customized Stretch Wrappers with Advanced Technology since 1994

HOW TO WRAP LOADS WITH UNEVEN TOP LAYERS WITH THE A-ARM



Uneven top layers present a problem for all pallet wrappers especially fully automatic models. With a semi-automatic model, the operator can manually rope the film as it is being dispensed to “capture” any loose items on the top layer. It is more of a challenge for the automatic machine without an operator. The smart A-Arm has adjustments in the standard program to capture uneven top layers.

The A-ARM is the only platform automatic that has a standard feature “A-Arm Safety Mode” that can be turned on for uneven top layers and off for loads with flat tops.

Click to watch: [How to Wrap Uneven Top Layers on the A-Arm](#)

A-ARM SETTINGS <A>	
>A-ARM SAFETY SCAN	:ON
A-ARM AUTO MODE	:ON
TOP BAND MODE	:OFF
RAISE AFTER CYCLE	:FULL
A-ARM CLEAR HEIGHT	:013
1ST REVOLUTION HEIGHT	:-03
SLOW START REVOLUTIONS	:00

The description below taken from the machine manual describes how the A-Arm Safety Mode automatically senses a loose item on the top layer and adjusts the arm position before initiating normal wrapping turntable speed.

5:2:4:3:3.1 A-Arm Safety Scan Off / On Selection

The A-ARM SAFETY SCAN selection is used to toggle the A-Arm Safety Scan parameter <ON> or <OFF>. The A-Arm Safety Scan parameter is used to protect the A-Arm against a collision with higher objects on the top layer on the load being wrapped. If this parameter is selected <ON>, the machine will perform the first revolution of the wrap cycle at an intermediate speed, while scanning the top of the load using the A-Arm Safety Photo-Eye (2PE). If any object is detected by this photo-eye, the turntable will immediately stop.

If the object that was detected remains in the field of view of the A-Arm Safety Photo-Eye (2PE), the film carriage elevator will ascend lifting the A-Arm until the photo-eye is clear, at which time the turntable will resume rotation.

If the object that was detected does NOT remain in the field of view of the A-Arm Safety Photo-Eye (2PE), the machine will signal a fault and a message displayed on the Operator Interface (HMI) screen will provide instructions to manually raise the film carriage until the A-Arm is above the “higher” object, and then press the Start button to resume. (Refer to Section 10:1:7)

To modify the A-Arm Safety Scan setting, move the cursor (>) to this line and then use the <+> or <-> keypad buttons to toggle the value between <ON> and <OFF>.

Remember, the A-Arm is 3 machines in 1. It can be a fully automatic, a top band only and a semi-automatic. If you have a mix of uneven top layers and flat tops, the A-Arm can be easily converted to a semi-automatic mode by turning off the “A-Arm Auto Mode”. Since the A-Arm has no clamp, hot wire cutting or brush devices on or around the turntable getting in the way, the operator can stand by the machine and manually rope the film while the A-Arm is still in the automatic mode. This allows the operator to be engaged with manually securing the loose items on top.

If there is a mix of 80% flat tops and 20% uneven top layers, you can still enjoy the safety benefits and labor cost savings that full automation provides 80% of the time while eliminating the need for the operator having to continuously get off and on the vehicle.

Do not let uneven top layers prevent you from considering the A-Arm as the best solution to your plant safety issues, increasing your production and providing considerable labor savings.

Contact your Cousins Packaging Regional Manager for further information.



The Association for Packaging and Processing Technologies

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