# EVALUATION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS' SAFETY BELT RESTRAINT SYSTEM. PHASE II.

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Final Report January 1983

Prepared for

U. S. Steel Corporation 600 Grant Street, Room 720 Pittsburgh, PA 15130

1. Report No. UMTRI-83-1	2. Government Access	ion No.	3. Recipient's Catalog	No.
4. Title and Subtitle 5. Report Date   EVALUATION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS' SAFETY January 1983   BELT RESTRAINT SYSTEM. 6. Performing Organization			3	
PHASE II. FINAL REPORT.			o. renoming organiza	
7. Author(s)	lvin Dichand	G Snydon	8. Performing Organiza	tion Report No.
9. Performing Organization Name and Address		a. Shyder	10. Work Unit No.	
The University of Michigan	nstitute n		11 Contract of Crant	No
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109	9		11. Contract of Grant	NO.
12. Sponsoring Agency Name and Address			13. Type of Report and	d Period Covered
U. S. Steel Corporation 600 Grant Street, Room 720	)		Phase II.	L.
Pittsburgh, PA 15130		14. Sponsoring Agency	7 Code	
15. Supplementary Notes				
A proposed innovative restraint harness developed by U. S. Steel for the protection of heavy equipment operators was dynamically tested as Phase II of the restraint evaluation program. An impact sled was used for frontal and lateral testing, and a shaker platform was used to produce vertical jolts. An instrumented 50th percentile male Part 572 dummy simulated the equipment operator. The harness performance under these three test conditions was compared to the results obtained with a conventional lap belt. This report presents the data from the impact testing and makes recommendations for additional improvements to the harness system.				
17. Key Words Restraint system Heavy Equipment Lap belt Dynamic tests		18. Distribution Statem	lent	
19. Security Classif.(of this report)	20. Security Classif.(of	this page)	21. No. of Pages	22. Price
			92	

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### I. Summary

This second phase of the study evaluated the proposed heavy equipment operator's safety belt restraint system under simulated dynamic conditions. Frontal, lateral, and vertical impacts were produced using the UMTRI impact sled and the shaker platform facilities. The performance of the proposed restraint was compared to the results obtained with conventional two-inchwide lap belt webbing under identical conditions. This proposed harness offers a unique and promising approach to increasing restraint usage by heavy equipment operators, as detailed in the Phase I report. Further development to eliminate the problems found in Phase II impact testing is recommended.

The findings are summarized as follows:

- In frontal impacts, the proposed U. S. Steel restraints allowed greater pelvis and hip excursions than a conventional lap belt, but there was no difference in maximum head excursions.
- In lateral impacts, the proposed U. S. Steel restraint provided lesser pelvis and greater head excursions than a conventional lap belt.
- In vertical jolt impacts, there was no significant difference in performance between the proposed U. S. Steel restraint and a conventional lap belt.

### II. Test Procedures and Results

A total of ten dynamic impact tests were conducted to evaluate the U. S. Steel restraint harness, six on the UMTRI impact sled and four on a vertical shaker platform. A conventional two-inch wide lap belt installation was used for comparison purposes.

The sled tests consisted of four frontal and two lateral impacts. The test platform consisted of a forklift seat attached to a fabricated frame. This assembly was rigidly fastened to the impact sled to simulate a typical operator seating configuration. Side and overhead high-speed movies were taken using Photosonics 1-B cameras operating at 1000 frames per second. A Polaroid Graph-Check sequence camera provided a "quick-look" at the restraint performance immediately after each test.

The shaker platform tests consisted of a single vertical jolt produced by a hydraulic servo system. This facility became available for use during the test program, and provided a more realistic simulation of vertical impacts experienced by equipment operators than could be produced on the sled. A fork lift seat attached to a frame was rigidly fastened to the shaker platform, similar to the impact sled setup.

A side view of the jolt test was recorded using a Photosonics 1-B camera operating at 1000 frames per second. A 50th percentile male Part 572 dummy instrumented with a triaxial accelerometer array mounted in its head and chest was used in these tests. GSE belt load cells were used to monitor belt webbing forces. These acceleration and force signals were recorded during each impact test on a Honeywell Model 7600 recorder.

Table 1 summarizes the impact sled testing of the proposed restraint system. Frontal tests were conducted at two different severity levels of approximately 18 mph at 30 g and 21 mph at 20 g. The higher velocity produced larger peak excursions of the knees and pelvis with either restraint system. The proposed restraint system gave a 75% greater pelvis excursion than the lap belt at 18 mph, and 120% greater excursions at 21 mph. Peak head excursions showed very little sensitivity to either restraint system or impact severity. The significantly higher peak head

accelerations and HIC in tests 82S005 and 82S006 resulted from the dummy head's striking the legs. Head/leg interaction also occurred during test 82S002, but the lower test velocity lessened the effect.

Lateral tests were conducted at a severity level of 12 mph at 18 g. The proposed restraint system gave a 4% lower peak head excursion and a 9% greater peak pelvis excursion than the conventional two-inch lap belt, an insignificant difference.

Table II summarizes the vertical jolt testing on the shaker platform. The proposed restraint system and the conventional lap belt both provided the same degree of restraint on peak vertical excursions of the head and shoulders. Also, both restraint systems provided lesser peak vertical excursions than those produced when simulating an unrestrained operator.

Tab	le	Ι.	Summary	of	Sled	Test	Result
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Test Number:	825001	82S002	825003	825004	82S005	825006
Restraint System:	U.S. Steel	2" lap belt	U.S. Steel	2" lap belt	U.S. Steel	2" lap belt
Velocity: (mph)	18.2	18.5	11.9	12.0	21.2	21.1
Deceleration: (g)	29.8	30.0	18.8	18.4	20.3	20.9
Direction of Impact:	Frontal	Frontal	Lateral	Lateral	Frontal	Frontal
Maximum Excursions (inches)						
HEAD: KNEES: PELVIS:	33.2 11.8 10.9	33.7 7.9 6.2	36.1 NA 9.7	37.6 NA 8.9	33.9 15.6 15.2	32.6 8.4 6.9
Peak Belt Loads (pounds)						
RT: LT:	1386 1547	1631 1628	601 32	578 357	1425 1558	1992 1632
Peak Resultant Accelerations (g)						
HEAD: CHEST:	42 20	185 35	13 21	23 12	73 32	194 71
Head Injury Criteria (HIC):	309	652	30	135	976	1439

Test Number	Restraint System	Peak Platform Deceleration (g)	Maximum Ver ( Head	tical Excursions inches) Shoulder	Peak Be (pour Rt	lt Loads nds) Lt
825007	U. S. Steel	2.2	6.	1.7	66	67
82S008	U. S. Steel	1.6	1.0	2.0	65	64
825009	None	2.5	1.9	2.6	-	1
825010	2" lap belt webbing	2.8	1.3	1.8	86	75

Table 11. Summary of Shaker Platform Results

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### III. Discussion

From the test results, the proposed restraint system appears to offer comparable protection to a conventional lap belt during lateral and vertical impacts, but allows excessive pelvic excursions during a frontal impact. Analysis of the frontal test high-speed movies suggests the higher excursions result from the ability of the short side belts to move fore-. and-aft along the main belt loop. While this provides adjustability so the restraint will fit a wide range of operators, it also appears to feed in additional effective belt length during frontal impact.

To eliminate this condition, it may be necessary to eliminate or modify the adjustability feature of the short side belts along the main belt loop. Either stitching the side belts to the main loop or providing several shorter adjustment ranges should reduce the forward excursion of the occupant.

Another consideration is the proper length or tension adjustment of the short side belts. For all the impact tests, these were pretensioned between 12 to 15 pounds to provide consistent initial conditions. However, the short belts are not as easy to tension as a conventional lap belt, increasing the probability of misuse or non-use. A simplified tightening method for the side belts that could be easily performed by a restrained, seated operator should improve usage rates as well as impact performance.

For the vertical jolt tests, the proposed severity level of 7 mph at 6 g was not attained. The low excursion of the unrestrained operator would suggest retesting at the higher severity to obtain a better comparison of the two restraint systems.

A suspension-type seat could not be obtained in time for inclusion in the Phase II test program. However, this type of seat was recently evaluated on the UMTRI impact sled using a similar restraint harness. In a frontal impact the entire suspension-type seat rotated forward and remained permanently deformed in this position. This motion allowed the dummy to slide off the end of the seat cushion and submarine under the restraint. Because of the greater pelvis excursions produced by the pro-

posed restraint system, the interaction with a suspension-type seat and the high potential for submarining should be investigated.

### IV. Recommendations

To improve the impact performance of the proposed restraint system, emphasis should be placed on factors that reduce the pelvis and knee excursions during frontal impacts.

These include the following:

- Ensuring that installation of the harness attaching anchors will provide the recommended  $50^\circ \pm 5^\circ$  belt angle. Vertical attachments will significantly increase forward motion during impact.
- Provide an easily performed length adjustment for the short side belts to encourage operators to use the restraint in a correctly tensioned manner.
- Minimize or eliminate the fore-aft travel of the short side belts along the main loop. This adjustability feature unfortunately degrades frontal impact performance.

Additional testing should also be considered to evaluate the following:

- The effect of higher severity vertical impacts on restraint performance.
- The interaction of a suspension-type seat with the proposed restraint system to check for potential seat cushion override by the operator, resulting in submarining.
- The effectiveness of any alternative modifications to the proposed restraint system design.

# V. Appendix

1. Test Data

Data are arranged in the following sequence for each impact test:

- Test summary
- Data Plots
- Setup Photograph
- Graph-Check Photograph
- Post-Test Photograph

Test Summary

TEST 825001

ms

# <u>Test Setup</u>

Test Facility: UMTRI Imp	act Sled					
Impact Parameters						
Velocity: Deceleration: Direction: Restraint System:	<u>18.2</u> mph <u>29.8</u> g, wit Frontal	h trape	zoidal	wave	e form	
	0. 5. 5000					
Test Results						
Peak head acceleration	S					
P-A (Posterior-Ante R-L (Right-Left): I-S (Inferior-Super Resultant HIC (Head Injury Cr	rior): ior): iteria)	min = min = min =	-12 -11 - 1 42 309	g g g g from	max =	<u>9</u> g <u>6</u> g <u>41</u> g
Peak chest acceleration	ns					
P-A (Posterior-Ante R-L (Right-Left): I-S (Inferior-Super Resultant	rior) ior):	min = min = min =	-13 - 3 - 1 20	a a a	max = _ max = _ max = _	9 g 5 g 18 g
Peak belt loads						
Right side: Left side:			1386 1547	pouno pouno	is is	
Maximum Excursions (fr	om H. S. fil	m analy	sis)			
Head: Knees: Pelvis:			33.2 11.8 10.9	inche inche inche	25 25 25	
Observations:						





04:00:33-04:10:50

256.00 ms = 2048 Pts / 8000 Hz

FILT # 43







**2**5001





Test Summary TEST <u>82S002</u>

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# <u>Test Setup</u>

.

Test Facility: UMTRI Impact Sled	
Impact Parameters	
Velocity: <u>18.5</u> mph Deceleration: <u>30.0</u> g, wit Direction: Frontal	th trapezoidal waveform
Restraint System: 2" lap bel	t webbing
Test Results	
Peak head accelerations	
P-A (Posterior-Anterior): R-L (Right-Left): I-S (Inferior-Superior): Resultant HIC (Head Injury Criteria)	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$
Peak chest accelerations	
P-A (Posterior-Anterior) R-L (Right-Left): I-S (Inferior-Superior): Resultant	min = -35 g max = 6 gmin = -3 g max = 4 gmin = -3 g max = 20 g35 g
Peak belt loads	•
Right side: Left side:	<u>1631</u> pounds <u>1628</u> pounds
Maximum Excursions (from H. S. fil	m analysis)
Head: Knees: Pelvis:	33.7 inches 7.9 inches 6.2 inches

Observations:





![](_page_24_Figure_0.jpeg)

05:04:18-05:08:31

256.00 ms = 2048 Pts / 8000 hz

![](_page_25_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_0.jpeg)

Test Summary

- · · · ·

# <u>Test Setup</u>

Test Facility: UMTRI Impact Sled

Impact Parameters

Velocity:	<u>11.9</u> mph
Deceleration:	18.8g, with trapezoidal waveform
Direction:	Lateral
Restraint System:	U. S. Steel

# <u>Test Results</u>

Peak head accelerations

P-A (Posterior-Anterior):	min = <u>- 2</u> g max = <u>4</u> g
R-L (Right-Left):	min = <u>- 8</u> g max = <u>10</u> g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = <u>-12</u> g max = <u>1</u> g
Resultant	<u>13</u> g
HIC (Head Injury Criteria)	<u>30</u> from <u>150</u> to <u>408</u> ms
Peak chest accelerations	
P-A (Posterior-Anterior)	min = <u>- 2</u> g max = <u>1</u> g
R-L (Right-Left):	min = <u>- 1</u> g max = <u>5</u> g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	$min = \frac{-21}{g} max = \frac{2}{g} g$
Resultant	g
Peak belt loads	
Right side:	<u>601</u> pounds
Left side:	32 pounds
Maximum Excursions (from H. S.	film analysis)
Head:	<u>36.1</u> inches
Knees:	inches
Pelvis:	9.7 inches
Observations:	

![](_page_32_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

FILE # 54

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Picture_0.jpeg)










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Test Summary

# <u>Test Setup</u>

Test Facility: UMTRI Impact Sled

Impact Parameters

Velocity:	<u>12.0</u> mph
Deceleration:	<u>18.4</u> g, with trapezoidal waveform
Direction:	Lateral
Restraint System:	2" lap belt webbing

# Test Results

Peak head accelerations

P-A (Posterior-Anterior):	min =g
R-L (Right-Left):	min = <u>-6</u> g max = <u>7</u> g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = <u>-23</u> g max = <u>2</u> g
Resultant	<u>_23</u> g
HIC (Head Injury Criteria)	<u>135</u> from <u>147</u> to <u>376</u> ms
Peak chest accelerations	
P-A (Posterior-Anterior)	min = <u>- 3</u> g max = <u>3</u> g
R-L (Right-Left):	min = <u>-5</u> g max = <u>1</u> g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = <u>-11</u> g max = <u>1</u> g
Resultant	<u>12</u> g
Peak belt loads	
Right side:	578 pounds
Left side:	357 pounds
Maximum Excursions (from H. S.	film analysis)
Head:	<u>37.6</u> inches
Knees:	NA inches
Pelvis:	8.9 inches
Observations:	

















Test Summary

TEST 82S005

in the second second

# Test Setup

• • • •

Test Facility: UMTRI Impact Sled

Impact Parameters

Velocity:	<u>21.2</u> mph
Deceleration:	20.3 g, with trapezoidal waveform
Direction:	Frontal
Restraint System:	U. S. Steel

### Test Results

Peak head accelerations

P-A (Posterior-Anterior):	min = <u>-50  </u> g   max = <u>6  </u> g
R-L (Right-Left):	min = <u>9</u> g max = <u>42</u> g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = <u>-57</u> g max = <u>0</u> g
Resultant	g
HIC (Head Injury Criteria)	<u>976</u> from <u>118</u> to <u>228</u> ms
Peak chest accelerations	
P-A (Posterior-Anterior)	min = <u>-27</u> g max = <u>1</u> g
R-L (Right-Left):	min = <u>- 7</u> g max = <u>23</u> g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = <u>-25</u> g max = <u>3</u> g
Resultant	<u></u> g
Peak belt loads	
Right side:	1425 pounds
Left side:	1558 pounds
Maximum Excursions (from H. S.	film analysis)
Head:	33.9 inches
Knees:	15.6 inches
Pelvis:	15.2 inches
Observations:	





















Test Summary

TEST 82S006

# Test Setup

Test Facility: UMTRI Impact Sled

Impact Parameters

Velocity:	<u>21.1</u> mph
Deceleration:	20.9 g, with trapezoidal waveform
Direction:	Frontal
Restraint System:	2" lap belt webbing

# Test Results

Peak head accelerations

P-A (Posterior-Anterior):	min = <u>-97</u> g max = <u>11</u> g
R-L (Right-Left):	min = -139 g $max = 14$ g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = -95 g max = 7 g
Resultant	194 g
HIC (Head Injury Criteria)	1439 from <u>119</u> to <u>226</u> ms
Peak chest accelerations	
P-A (Posterior-Anterior)	min = <u>-66</u> g max = <u>12</u> g
R-L (Right-Left):	min = -11 g $max = 17$ g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = -33 g $max = -45$ g
Resultant	g
Peak belt loads	
Right side:	1922 pounds
Left side:	1632 pounds
Maximum Excursions (from H. S. film	n analysis)
Head:	32.6 inches
Knees:	<sup>8.4</sup> inches
Pelvis:	6.9 inches
Observations:	



13:55:05+13:59:11

256.00 ms = 2048 Pts / 8000 Hz

FILE # 60


















**TEST** 82S007

## Test Setup

Test Facility: Vertical Shaker Platform

## Impact Parameters

Platform Motion:Upward jolt and returnPulse Shape:Triangular displacement waveformPeak Platform Acceleration:2.2 g

Restraint System: U. S. Steel Restraint Harness

## Test Results

```
Peak head accelerations
```

P-A (Posterior-Anterior):	min = <u>-2</u> g max = <u>1</u> g	
R-L (Right-Left):	$\min = \frac{-2}{g}  \max = \frac{1}{g}$	
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	$min = \frac{-3}{g} max = \frac{6}{g}$	
Resultant	<u>6</u> g	
HIC (Head Injury Criteria)	<u> </u>	;
Peak chest accelerations		
P-A (Posterior-Anterior)	min = <u>-1</u> g max = <u>1</u> g	
R-L (Right-Left):	min = <u>0</u> g max = <u>0</u> g	
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = -3 g max = -7 g	
Resultant	g	
Peak belt loads		
Right side:	_66 pounds	
Left side:	67 pounds	
Maximum Excursions (from H. S. 1	film analysis)	
Head:	.9 inches	
Shoulder:	1.7 inches	
Observations:		







11:07:27-11:15:04

806.40 ms = 4032 Pts / 5000 Hz

FILE # 71





## Test Setup

Test Facility: Vertical Shaker Platform

#### Impact Parameters

Platform Motion:Upward jolt and returnPulse Shape:Triangular displacement waveformPeak Platform Acceleration:1.6 g

Restraint System: U. S. Steel Restraint Harness

## Test Results

```
Peak head accelerations
```

P-A (Posterior-Anterior):	min = <u></u> g
R-L (Right-Left):	min = <u>_2</u> g max = <u>]</u> g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = <u>-3</u> g max = <u>5</u> g
Resultant	g
HIC (Head Injury Criteria)	<u> </u>
Peak chest accelerations	
P-A (Posterior-Anterior)	min = -2 g max = 1 g
R-L (Right-Left):	min = <u>-1</u> g max = <u>0</u> g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = -3 g max = -6 g
Resultant	<u> </u>
Peak belt loads	
Right side:	<sup>65</sup> pounds
Left side:	64 pounds
Maximum Excursions (from H. S. f	film analysis)
Head:	<u>1.0</u> inches
Shoulder:	2.0 inches
Observations:	





10:51:23-10:55:12

806.40 ms = 4032 Pts / 5000 Hz



806.40 ms = 4032 Pts / 5000 Hz

FILE





## Test Setup

Test Facility: Vertical Shaker Platform

# Impact Parameters

Platform Motion:Upward jolt of 5.7 inches and return in 370 msPulse Shape:Triangular displacement waveformPeak Platform Acceleration:2.5 g

Restraint System: None

## Test Results

```
Peak head accelerations
```

P-A (Posterior-Anterior):	min = -4 g max = -1 g
R-L (Right-Left):	$min = \frac{-2}{g} max = \frac{1}{g}$
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	$\min = \frac{-7}{g}  \max = \frac{2}{g}$
Resultant	g
HIC (Head Injury Criteria)	<u> </u>
Peak chest accelerations	
P-A (Posterior-Anterior)	$\min = -2  g  \max = 1  g$
R-L (Right-Left):	min = 0 g max = 1 g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = 8 g max = 3 g
Resultant	<u>8</u> g
Peak belt loads	
Right side:	pounds
Left side:	pounds
Maximum Excursions (from H. S.	film analysis)
Head:	1.9 inches
Shoulder:	_2.6_ inches
Observations:	











TEST 82S010

#### Test Setup

Test Facility: Vertical Shaker Platform

## Impact Parameters

Platform Motion:Upward jolt of 5.7 inches and return in 370 msPulse Shape:Triangular displacement waveformPeak Platform Acceleration:2.8 g

Restraint System: 2 inch wide lap belt webbing

#### Test Results

```
Peak head accelerations
```

P-A (Posterior-Anterior):	min = <u>-2</u> g max = <u>1</u> g
R-L (Right-Left):	min = <u>-2</u> g max = <u>1</u> g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = -3 g max = -4 g
Resultant	g
HIC (Head Injury Criteria)	1 from $44$ to $543$ ms
Peak chest accelerations	
P-A (Posterior-Anterior)	$min = \frac{-2}{g} max = \frac{1}{g}g$
R-L (Right-Left):	min = 0 g max = 1 g
I-S (Inferior-Superior):	min = -4 g max = 4 g
Resultant	<b>g</b>
Peak belt loads	•
Right side:	86 pounds
Left side:	75 pounds
Maximum Excursions (from H. S.	film analysis)
Head:	1.3 inches
Shoulder:	1.8 inches
Observations:	

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