

Banana Classification Plant.



Banana classification plant - Tenerife

Banana classifiers use conveyor belts, along with other forms of conveyance, such as roller conveyors, and chain conveyors.

The attached photos show details of the whole process at a plant in Tenerife.

The lorry-loads of bananas arrive at the factory from the plantations in padded cages that prevent the product from being damaged (**photo 1**). Next, the branches of bananas are hung on a chain conveyor (**photo 2**) and pass through the first washing tunnel (**photo 3**).



Photo 4 shows how bunches are cut off and placed in a bath filled with water (**photos 5 and 6**), where the first selection takes place.

Rejected product (such as ripe, broken, or excessively small bananas) are placed on **Clina 12CK** belts - **photos 5 and 6** - which are located in the upper part of the baths (2 belts per bath).

In this part of the process 8 belts are used, measuring approx. 400mm by 10m. The **Clina 12CK** is able to convey the damp product with no risk of shrinkage, as the lower fabric is completely protected. It is also non-toxic and completely FDA compliant. At this plant the belts have been in use for 4 years.





In the next stage of the process, the workers remove bunches of bananas and place them in trays, until they reach a weight of 16kg (**photos 7 and 8**). The trays are then put in boxes to be taken for palletising (**photo 9**) on a roller and belt conveyor (**Aster 12GF**). The **A12GF** belt, with its bees nest pattern on the top cover, is ideal for conveying boxes on sloping conveyors, as it can work at an angle of up to 35°, even when wet. The number of **A12GF** belts depends on the size of the classifying plant.

The measurements of the belts are generally 400/600mm x 6/12m.

Roller conveyor (**photo 10**) takes the product for classifying by quality.





The process finishes with the conveying of the rejected product. This is picked up by a **Drago 30CC belt with Vercan 315 buckets (photos 11 and 12)**. The **Drago 30CC**, with its special characteristics of abrasion and cut resistance, is the appropriate belt for this part of the process. Furthermore, it is highly resistant to the tearing action of the bucket screws.