TATA STEEL

Process Safety Division - Pilot Study: Digital BowTie for Conveyor Safety

Date: October 2025

Incident Summary

Conveyor belt started unexpectedly during maintenance despite active work permit and interlocks. Pull chord failed to function. The objective of this pilot is to demonstrate a live, digital barrier verification system connecting permits, PLC interlocks, and safety devices.

Barrier Effectiveness Overview

	Barrier	Туре	Owner	Effectiveness	Next Due	Remarks
Digit	al Work Permit (MCC handsh	ak @)reventive	Ops Supervisor	■ Weak	15-Nov	Needs PLC link
	Smart LOTO QR Validation	Preventive	Maintenance	■ Good	10-Nov	Tested
	Pull Chord E-Stop	Mitigative	Electrical	■ Failed	10-Oct	No heartbeat
	Restart Interlock	Preventive	Automation	■ Weak	20-Nov	Pending update
	Torque/Vibration Monitoring	Mitigative	Reliability	■ Good	25-Nov	OK
	Incident Response SOP	Recovery	Safety	■ Good	20-Oct	Active

Digital Signals Integration

Signal	Source	Function		
permit.active	Work Permit App	Inhibits restart while permit open		
isolation.status	MCC/PLC feedback	Confirms de-energization		
pullchord.health	E-Stop loop	Verifies emergency readiness		
restart.request	HMI/SCADA	Cross-checks permit + isolation		
alert.broadcast	Dashboard Gateway	Notifies anomalies before restart		

Outcomes & Next Steps

- High residual risk due to non-verified barrier states.
- 80% of physical barriers effective; missing digital synchronization.
- API connection between permit system, PLC, and barrier monitoring recommended.
- Pilot rollout proposed for BF Raw Material Handling conveyor line.

Live Demo: https://bowtie-eight.vercel.app

