'Old El Paso' Tortilla Insertion System







The Project

General Mills installed a new automated manufacturing line for tortilla products for the *Old El Paso* range of Mexican food products. A major component of this production line was a machine that was capable of controlling the flow of pre-formed primary cartons and automatically inserting a wrapped stack of tortillas into the product carton at a rate of 60-80 cartons per minute. Australis designed, manufactured and installed a system incorporating the following features:

- · Tortilla insertion system and associated conveyors
- Stainless steel and polycarbonate guarding enclosure for tortilla insertion system to improve worker OHS
- Modular belt conveyors inside clean room
- Modification, lengthening, shortening and relocation of existing conveyors for the factory re-layout

Product Insertion



Machine Guarding



Modular Belt Conveyors



The Result

The system was successfully installed and commissioned and is currently in operation. The system was deemed a real success due to the tortilla insertions system successfully operating above the design target of 60 packs per minute.

The solution for the insertion system and guarding was viewed as being as being very simple, reliable and cost effective method of automating the production requirements.

Innovation

A key element of the Australis Engineering solution has been the use of a customised gripper conveyor used to control the flow of tortilla packets into the cartons.



ustralis

Client:

General Mills Australia Pty Ltd

Location: Rooty Hill (Sydney) NSW, Australia

Modular belt conveyors

Custom gripper conveyor

Product inserter

Machine Guarding

Food grade

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