Slitter Blade Maintenance

In the pulp and paper industry, maintenance workers and millwrights are constantly exposed to cut and laceration hazards on their hands and arms during slitter-blade change-outs and other blade maintenance operations and slabbing. While reducing cuts and slashes was a priority, giving these specialized workers the exact dexterity and feel required to remove and replace blades efficiently was the key to providing the right PPE for the job.

The Challenge of Changing Out Sharp Slitter Blades

Changing out circular slitter blades like this is hazardous work for pulp and paper millwrights. Working in confined spaces surrounded by sharp blades increases the exposure to cuts and lacerations for both hands and arms — it also demands PPE that allows maximum dexterity and feel to perform blade change-outs quickly and efficiently.

HexArmor® Finds Solution for Tough Maintenance Tasks

Working with paper-mill industry leaders like Weyerhaeuser, Georgia Pacific, and RockTenn, HexArmor® provided a full range of protective glove and arm guard solutions to mitigate millwright and maintenance crews’ risk of cuts and lacerations in handling and replacing straight edge doctor blades and circular slitter blades. HexArmor® discovered that maintenance workers had traditionally used leather gloves or gloves made of materials that offered less than 1000 grams of cut protection in these tasks. In cases where manufacturers had mandated improved PPE like Kevlar®, trials of Kevlar® gloves failed — rejected by unions and workers because of insufficient cut protection, poor fit, and unacceptable dexterity and grip characteristics.

Since maintenance workers and millwrights play such a critical role in keeping production lines running, having the right level of protection and dexterity is key to a stronger and safer paper and pulp facility. Slitter blades and other circular blades can come in many different sizes, weights, and can be saturated with grease or have no coating at all. With a variety of hazards in play, it is critical to keep the workers in the best protection for the application.

All cut and puncture resistant HexArmor® products are put to the test in the lab and in the field. Since dexterity and grip requirements vary by specific application, we leveraged our relationships with industry leaders in paper and pulp mills to adjust recommendations based on company and plant-specific needs.

Call 1-877-MY ARMOR or visit hexarmor.com

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**Product Solutions**

**2000 Series™ 2080**
This glove has been our most successful solution in the pulp and paper industry. The 2000 Series™ 2080 offers ISEA cut level A6 protection in a 13-gauge Kevlar® and steel blend shell. Combined with a foam nitrile palm dip, the 2080 has the grip and dexterity needed to get the job done.

**Mechanics+ 4018**
The Mechanics+ 4018 provided the high levels of cut and puncture resistance companies and workers were looking for, plus it provided enhanced feel and comfort with a synthetic leather palm that replicated the feel and grip of gloves that had been traditionally used in pulp and paper millwright applications.

**Chrome Series® 4023**
HexArmor’s Chrome Series 4023 is a full coverage ANSI/ISEA cut level A8 mechanics’ glove that addressed the need for both palm coverage and back of hand protection for blade changing and slabbing.

**HexArmor® Arm Protection**
HexArmor® arm guards provide industry-leading cut and puncture resistance. HexArmor® arm guards with SuperFabric® are upwards of four times more cut resistant than Kevlar® arm guards, and are 100 times more puncture resistant, making them the ideal solution for slabbing and changing chipper knives.

HexArmor® is an industry leading manufacturer of high performance personal protective equipment (PPE) made with technologies that push the limits of cut, puncture, needle, and abrasion resistance. Our mission is simple: give you better products with better technology designed with end user needs and collaboration. HexArmor® works with industries from oil and gas, to mining, food processing and waste recycling to design the best working and most protective glove available today.

**Cut Resistance**
SuperFabric® is an exclusive licensed* technology that provides industry leading protection against lacerations, punctures and slashes like no other material in the industry today.

**Grip and Dexterity**
The pulp and paper industry demanded grip and dexterity solutions that allowed millwrights and maintenance workers to handle tools and sharp slitter blades in confined and hazardous spaces. HexArmor palm and grip solutions also matched the feel and comfort of traditional leather gloves.

**Puncture Protection**
HexArmor® gloves were laboratory and field tested to validate industry standards for puncture-resistance, and prevent sharp tools, blades and protruding hazards from penetrating the glove.

*SuperFabric is licensed from HDM, Inc.