

# PROVIDING CUTTING EDGE PPE FOR THE PAPER AND PULP INDUSTRY

**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. 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.**

## FACTS

- Changing circular slitter blades and straight edged doctor blades created hazards for the maintenance crews in charge of keeping machinery running
- Most of the PPE that was used was less than ISEA and CE Level 2 cut-resistance, not enough to keep hands safe
- HexArmor introduced a variety of ISEA and CE Level 5 cut protection for hands and arms, which helped reduce injuries and increase safety records

## THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGING OUT SHARP SLITTER BLADES



Circular Slitter Blade

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 Kimberly Clark, 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 no more than ISEA and CE Level 2 (less than

1000 grams) 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.

HexArmor ensures the protection and quality of its PPE by testing to ISEA Level 5 Ratings for cut-resistance, and also field tests products for industrial puncture protection from wires, wickers, slivers, and glass. Since dexterity and grip requirements vary by specific application, HexArmor leveraged its relationships with industry leaders in paper and pulp mills to adjust recommendations based on company and plant specific needs.

## PROTECTIVE FEATURES

### CUT RESISTANCE

HexArmor with proprietary **SuperFabric®** exceed today's industry leading ISEA Level 5 and CE cut resistance ratings. SuperFabric provides resistance 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 splitter 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.

## PRODUCT SOLUTIONS

### SteelLeather™ III (5033)

Pulp and Paper Millwrights found the combination of protection, grip and dexterity they were looking for in the HexArmor SteelLeather™ III. **SuperFabric®** on



SteelLeather™ III 5033

the palm and fingers, and over the knuckles on the back of the hand, protected workers from cuts and lacerations with industry leading ISEA and CE Level 5 cut resistance. The cowhide leather provided the feel and comfort maintenance

crews were accustomed to – but with more durability and the ability to be dry-cleaned for extended use.

### Mechanics + 4018

HexArmor's Mechanics + (4018) provided the protective attributes (ISEA Level 5 Cut Resistance) companies and workers were looking for, plus it



Mechanics+ 4018

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™ 4025

HexArmor's Chrome Series 4025 is a full coverage ISEA Level 5 Cut Resistant mechanics' glove that



Chrome Series™ 4025

addressed the need for both palm coverage and back of hand protection for millwrights maintaining and repairing machinery.

### HexArmor Arm Protection

HexArmor Arm Guards provide industry-leading ISEA and CE Level 5 Cut Resistance for hands and arms when used in conjunction with HexArmor gloves. HexArmor Arm Guards, with **SuperFabric®** are upwards of four times more resistant to cuts than Kevlar arm guards, and are 100 times more puncture resistant.



HexArmor Arm Guards

*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 gas and oil field construction, to mining, food processing and waste recycling to design the best working and most protective glove available today.*



2000 Oak Industrial Drive NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
Call **1-877-MY ARMOR**  
or visit **hexarmor.com**