

# 'Old El Paso' Tortilla Insertion System



**Client:**

**General Mills  
Australia Pty Ltd**

**Location:**

**Rooty Hill (Sydney)  
NSW, Australia**

**Value:**

**\$131,000**

***Design, manufacture & install an automated tortilla insertion machine, in a food manufacturing environment.***



## ***The Project***

General Mills recently 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***



## ***Safety Guarding***



## ***Modular Belt Conveyors***



## ***The Result***

The system was successfully installed and commissioned and is currently in operation. The system was deemed to be a great success, 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.

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