

Astech PW Bandsaw

Astech PW Bandsaw (Hands Free) Set Weight

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Project Description

Bindaree Food Group is a major contributor to the domestic and export retail market and has embarked on a project to deliver a safer bandsaw operation that reduces the seriousness and extent of band-saw inflicted injuries. The Astech PW-saw is a technology which significantly distances the operator from the blade by using automation technology. The primary objective of this technology is to eliminate the occurrence and risk of amputations and injuries. The Astech PW-saw is a major investment into delivering a safer approach into cutting for retail and value adding bone-in meat products.

The purpose of this project is to assess the Astech PW-saw in terms of operational efficiency, efficacy, and safety in comparison with traditional bandsaw use. The scope of this project covers bone-in products currently produced by Bindaree Food Group as well as new product development. Comparisons were made with the Bladestop bandsaw.

Project Content

This project involved processing a variety of bone-in primal cuts using the Astech PW-saw and assessing its safety and efficiency.

Project Outcome

The Astech PW-saw has several advantages which can be utilised to enhance the capabilities and safety of the bandsaw operation.

Safety

The Astech PW-saw is designed to significantly distance the operator from the band-saw blade which is housed inside an engineered cabinet. The gripping and cutting are completely automated and an operator only needs to feed primals onto a belt. This reduces the risk of injury caused by fatigue or distraction as there is engineered distance from the operator to blade.

From the operator feedback the overall safety benefits of the PW saw can be summarised as per the below:

- Due to the operation requiring less skill, the operator training is less intensive. It also allows more operators to be trained and therefore operator rotation on the job.
- Tiredness and distractions are not a threat to operator safety as the blade is encased inside the machine.
- Non-operator safety is not an issue due to the encased blade.
- The operator has the freedom to move and collect raw material during bandsaw operation.
- The operator is not required to wear extensive PPE to operate the machine

Fixed Weight

Fresh meat in the retail market is seeing an increased presence of fixed weight portions. The Astech PW-saw provides a safe and relatively accurate way to accomplish this. However, the raw material should be specified correctly to give an optimal outcome.

Benefit for Industry

The Astech PW-saw benefits the industry as it significantly reduces the risk of band-saw related injuries in the workplace. Bandsaw injuries are severe and can be debilitating. Minimising the risk and occurrence of these injuries as well as the cost associated would be beneficial for the industry.

Useful resources

<https://www.astech.es/en/precision-weight-automatic-bandsaw-pw-saw/>