

Guardian 900 Saw

Wodonga Rendering Guardian 900 understanding long term benefits of adoption

Project code
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Project description

Deployment of Guardian smart bandsaws (400/600/900) at Wodonga Rendering (late-2022 to Oct 2025) to reduce hand-laceration risk and establish a data-driven safety model. The project combined Guardian portal analytics (activations, reason codes, runtime), supervisor workshops and on-floor observation with cross-checks against the injury register across Offal, Cutting and Boning rooms.

Project content

- Installed Guardian 400/600/900 units in Offal, Cutting and Boning; enabled operator logins.
- Reviewed portal analytics (activations/hour, reason codes, runtime) and cross-checked with injury register.
- Ran supervisor workshops to validate trends and assign actions/owners.
- Implemented controls: standardise light-coloured aprons; trial non-blue gloves; manage moisture/condensation; add lens-clean routine.
- Ergonomics: prefer right-side/overhead lead routing; lead-length checks; harness-care guidance.
- Maintenance: shift to self-service with critical spares; document alignment/blade-change procedures.
- Governance: assign portal ownership; enforce unique credentials; issue a quarterly KPI pack.

Project outcomes

- **Zero lacerations on Guardian**; residual hand injuries were on legacy saws.
- **~2 activations per runtime hour**; top reason “Vision not safe”, then contact sensing and brake.
- Nuisance stops reduced via PPE colour change (light aprons, non-blue gloves) and moisture/lens routines.
- **Governance in place**: unique operator logins, supervisor portal access, quarterly KPI pack.
- **Sustainable ops**: self-service maintenance with critical spares; alignment procedures; right-side/overhead lead routing preference captured for future orders.

Benefit for industry

- **Proven injury reduction**: pre-contact intervention with zero Guardian-related lacerations in routine use.
- **Data-driven governance**: operator-level analytics and a quarterly KPI pack enable targeted coaching and earlier interventions.
- **Faster investigations**: video-linked activations streamline root-cause analysis and corrective actions.
- **Lower operating risk/cost**: self-service maintenance with critical spares reduces downtime and vendor travel costs.
- **Procurement guidance**: standardised PPE colours and preferred lead routing inform specifications and retrofits.
- **Transferable playbook**: minimal-disruption rollout steps applicable across similar red-meat plants.

Useful resources

Guardian saw website: <https://www.guardianbandsaw.com/>