



Carlos Andrés Ardila Daza

Maintenance Manager • Food Manufacturing

Mechatronics Engineer • Specialist in Maintenance Management • Licensed Professional Engineer (COPNIA)

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Professional profile

Mechatronics Engineer and Specialist in Maintenance Management with 15+ years of experience in the food industry —canned tuna, poultry processing and dairy— including 11+ years leading maintenance for processing plants. Currently Maintenance Manager at GRALCO S.A., leading a 31-person team and managing an annual OPEX budget of approximately USD 840,000. Focused on reliability (RCM, RCA, RBI), maintenance planning and scheduling, KPI-driven management (availability, MTBF, MTTR) and data analytics to prioritize decisions. Proven track record in automation projects, equipment upgrades and cost reduction in food-safety-regulated environments (FSSC 22000, ISO 9001).

15+ years

in food-industry maintenance

31 people

technical team led (engineers, supervisors, technicians)

~USD 840K

annual OPEX budget managed

3 industries

tuna • poultry • dairy

Core competencies

- Preventive, predictive and corrective maintenance
- KPIs: availability, MTBF, MTTR, compliance
- Automation and control: PLC, VFDs, soft starters
- Food safety and quality: FSSC 22000, ISO 9001
- Maintenance planning and scheduling
- OPEX budget, spare parts and contractors
- Electrical power and control; pneumatics and hydraulics
- Safety: work-at-height coordinator
- Reliability: RCM, RCA, RBI
- Technical team leadership
- Utilities: steam, ammonia refrigeration, compressed air, substations
- Data analytics and management dashboards

Professional experience

Maintenance Manager

GRALCO S.A. • Canned tuna

Jun 2025 – Present

Lead end-to-end plant maintenance, from raw-material receiving and thawing to finished goods —precooking, loin cleaning, filling and dosing, can seaming, retort sterilization, labeling and packing— as well as steam, refrigeration, compressed-air and water utilities.

- Lead a 31-person team: 2 engineers, 2 supervisors, 1 analyst, 24 technicians and 2 interns.
- Manage an annual OPEX budget of approximately USD 840,000, controlling spare parts, services and contractors.
- Strengthened maintenance planning and scheduling, aligning interventions with the production schedule and product changeovers on each line.
- Designed and built an in-house analytics platform that integrates production, downtime, planning and line-speed data: it calculates compliance, availability, MTBF, MTTR and failure Pareto, and scores the risk of product changeovers by line.
- Using this platform, identified the can-seaming system as the critical equipment and failure patterns linked to start-of-week and shift changes, providing the basis to prioritize preventive maintenance.

Maintenance Coordinator

Industrias Puropollo • Poultry processing

Apr 2021 – Jun 2025

Responsible for processing-plant maintenance from live-bird receiving to cut-up and packing (shackling, scalding, plucking, evisceration, chiller cooling, marinating and packing), and for utilities: fire-tube boilers, air compressors and dryers, ammonia refrigeration, and medium/low-voltage substations.

- Redesigned live-bird receiving ventilation (from four 48" to six 60" fans), increasing airflow from 160,000 to 300,000 CFM (+87%).
- Implemented level control and water recirculation in the crate washer and feet-receiving tank, reducing water consumption.
- Standardized pulleys, bushings, shafts and bearings on pluckers and feet cutters, extending component life and reducing maintenance labor hours.

- Led the replacement of the 150 HP ammonia-compressor motor and the upgrade of the cycloidal gear motors on chillers 1 and 2, with laser alignment.
- Upgraded motor starting for feather and offal cookers (75 and 100 HP), hammer mill and blower (25 HP), from autotransformers to electronic soft starters.
- Overhauled packing machines and marinators, and improved speed control of the evisceration and freezing-tunnel conveyor chains.
- Standardized equipment and spare parts to optimize purchase requests and inventory levels.

Maintenance Coordinator

2019 – 2020

Coolechera · Dairy

Managed maintenance of process equipment at the liquid-milk and powdered-milk plants (Barranquilla) and the Cartagena plant: UHT and dairy-products fillers (yogurt, butter, arequipe, whey and dairy drinks in cups, pouches and doypacks), pumps, valves and process lines.

Maintenance Supervisor

2014 – 2018

Coolechera · Dairy

- Planned preventive and corrective maintenance (mechanical, electrical and pneumatic) for process machinery, motors, pumps, chillers, cooling towers and heat exchangers.
- Led the electrical and automation projects for the new fresh-cheese plant in Cartagena (opened August 2016) and its CIP system.
- Winner of the company improvement contest: replaced the vacuum packer's imported control board (USD 1,500) with a timer-based control system costing about COP 500,000.

Mechatronics Technologist

2010 – 2013

Industrias Plásticas del Caribe · Industrias Guinovart · Independent projects

Electrical, pneumatic, hydraulic and mechanical maintenance; design and installation of control and power panels; automation of 150 HP motors with PLC and soft starters (EDAR wastewater treatment plant, Barranquilla); capacitor-bank installation and compressed-air reuse on thermoforming equipment.

Education

Specialization in Maintenance Management (postgraduate)

Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar · Cartagena · 2017

B.Sc. Mechatronics Engineering

Universidad Autónoma del Caribe · Barranquilla · 2015 · COPNIA license

Technologist in Mechatronic Automation Design and Integration

SENA Colombo Alemán · Barranquilla

Academic exchange program in Germany

DAAD scholarship · 2014

Certifications

ISO 9001 Internal Auditor

ICONTEC · 2014 · 20 h

FSSC 22000 v5 — Introduction and Interpretation

Qsafe · 2019

Work-at-Height Safety Coordinator

2016 · 80 h

Work-at-Height Safety — Advanced Level

Asogestión · 2015 · 40 h

Quality Internal Auditor Training

Coolechera · 2014 · 24 h

Occupational Health and Safety

SENA

Tools and languages

Technical software

AutoCAD Electrical · SolidWorks · FluidSIM
(pneumatics and hydraulics) · Proteus · Microsoft
Office (advanced Excel)

Artificial intelligence

Claude (AI): data analysis, reporting and development of
maintenance-management tools

Languages

Spanish: native · English: basic