

The Value of TS 16949- On-Time Delivery (part 1 of 3)

A Series for Plastic Injection Molding Buyers & Engineers

Asking the right questions can eliminate OEM buyers' frustration with late deliveries. What criteria should an OEM plastic buyer consider when bidding projects? Price and capabilities being equal, OEM buyers often fail to ask an essential question impacting all aspects of their project. **Is this plastic injection mold company TS 16949 certified?** This article is the first of a three part series examining the importance of this certification. Part one identifies the importance of the certification and how it impacts **100% ON-TIME DELIVERY**. Written from the expertise at Non-Metallic Component's Quality Control Department. NMC has enjoyed long-term relationships with some of the most respected companies in the U.S. and this article reflects that earned trust.

Ensure your plastic injection company is highly qualified

What certifications does the plastic injection mold company maintain? Regardless to size of your plastic injections needs, when screening potential or current companies ensure they are ISO/TS: 16949:2002 certified. Luck in the past with a non-certified company is just that, luck. ISO/TS 16949:2002 certifications are the development of a total quality management system that provides continual means for improvement, emphasizing defect prevention and reduction of waste in the supply chain. An ISO/TS 16949:2002 certified company, Non-Metallic Components, Inc. is continually examining products for ways of improving production, saving customers money. This certification is rooted in the automotive industry, however the standard can be applied across industries.

Quality Control Planning

The TS 16949 process directly impacts on-time delivery through quality control planning. One of the advantages is the ability to trace a single part out of millions to the machine operator through advanced analysis of quality control. Leading

the way, NMC's Quality Manager works with a Cross Function Quality Planning Team including engineers, production, customer service and OEM. After determining OEM expectations, the appropriate techniques are utilized including Advanced Product Quality Planning and Control Plan (APQP), Potential Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) and Production Part Approval Process (PPAP). The focus of NMC's Team is to establish actions to reduce potential failure modes with high risk, develop and review control plans and conduct measurement system of analysis on all devices used to monitor or measure product. The end result enables NMC to work proactively with customers on their part requirements, perfect manufacturing and measurement techniques and review documentation on delivery and provide a feedback mechanism to the OEM.

When OEM's don't require a TS 16949 compliant company or if the OEM has specific requirements, the end result is the same, however the process changes. Unless specified by the customer, the Quality Manger utilizes decades of experience as the head of a cross-functional team and takes control of the process. This includes and is not limited to: accessing quality objectives/requirements, identifying the process, documentation and resources required, implementing the required verification, validation, monitoring, inspection and test activities and developing the inspection guide. The Quality manager updates the quality plans as necessary, based on revisions to the product, the manufacturing methods used or changes to he inspection method.

Supply

NMC's evaluation and selection of suppliers is crucial as it directly relates to quality and on-time delivery. As a processor of high tech, engineering grade resins our products are an end result of the quality of material utilized. Cost saving strategies can be employed by switching to less expensive resin, however if the company is not properly audited the product suffers as a result. More to the point if the right quality and quantity of resin isn't rapidly available the product and production expectations suffer as a result. Approved by NMC's Quality

Manager, an approved supplier list is audited to verify an ISO 9000 certification. The importance in this rating is that they maintain a 100% on-time delivery performance to NMC so we can perform our manufacturing process in the appropriate timeframe for our customer.

Production

The methods used in OEM's with or without a need for TS 16949 compliance, provide a detailed structure in which every variable in the control of production is documented and regulated. This is important as it provides the framework to meet customer requirements such as just-in-time manufacturing and streamlines value added services including. This documentation sets the parameters for the technicians and requires approval of the quality manager before changing variables ensure consistency at all levels. All documentation is then housed in the quality control department to ensure the safety of the controlling documents. Maintaining this level of documentation eliminates error in producing products on time.

Conclusion:

Overseas and domestic plastic injection companies are scrambling for attention as OEM supplier lists are shrinking fast. Through Quality Control Planning, Supply and Production, the TS 16949 certification continually ensures OEM customers the promise of on-time delivery. Contact NMC today for quote on your next project or to discuss mold take-over programs.