



# 10 QUALITY GUIDES FOR SELECTING

## **METAL STAMPING SUPPLIERS**



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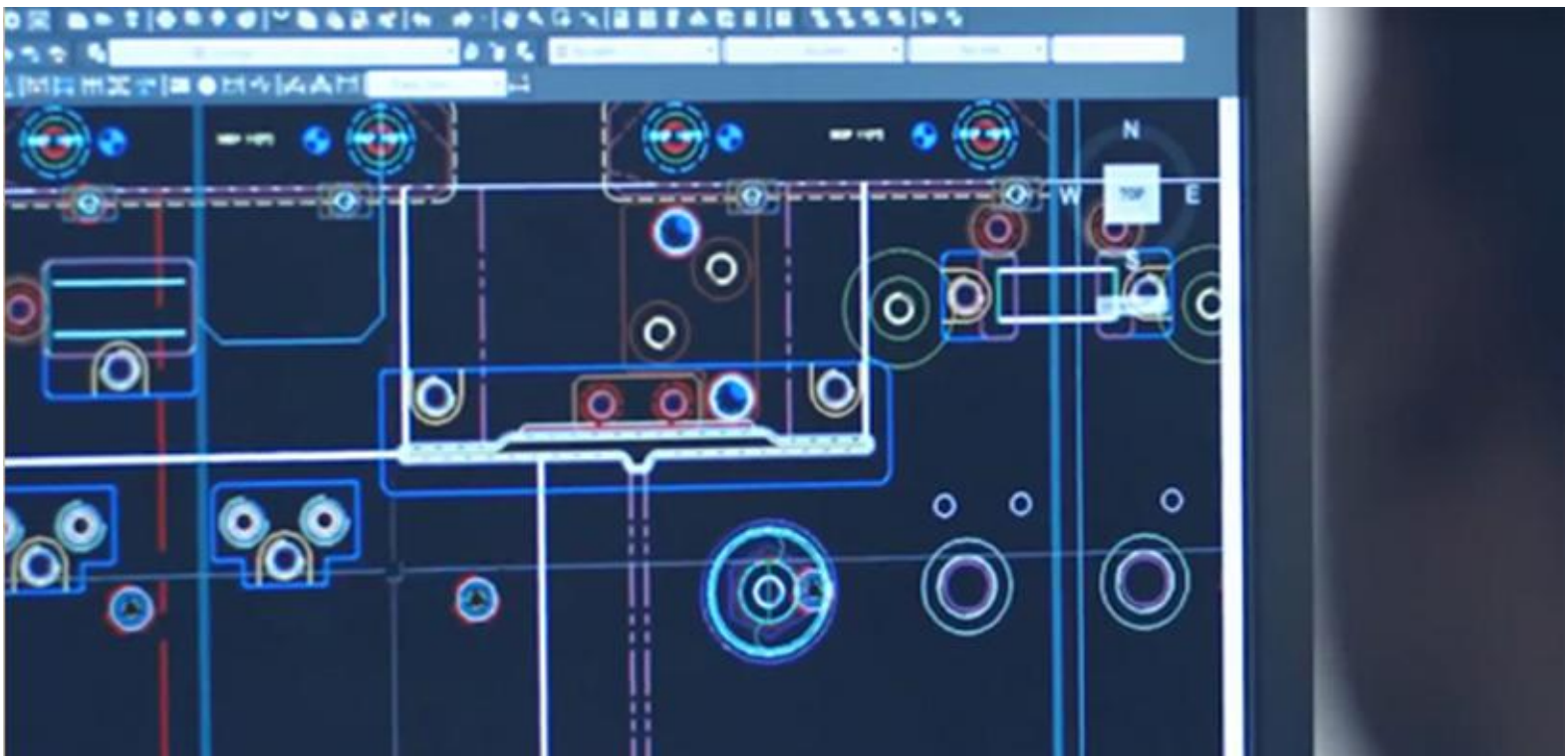
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Metal stamping suppliers have always been in demand. These days, there has been a great push towards quality and nothing can be compromised in order to stay ahead in the race of maintaining good quality. Every manufacturer wants to have a process that promotes zero defects on the production line but professionals also know that a manufacturing process without problem is highly impossible. An important criteria then is the implementation of sound quality process that helps in minimizing defects in various areas and accept responsibility if problems do occur.

Here are 10 quality guides to help you select metal stamping suppliers.

## 01 Capabilities in designing metal stamping products

There is just no need to overemphasize the fact that we are living in a technologically advanced world and all the industries are using the most recent tools and equipments to keep up with the current trends. The same fact is true with metal stamping suppliers as well. The suppliers that you choose should have capability to provide solution for all your metal stamping needs. One of the important factors that will help you understand this aspect would be to personally pay a visit to their manufacturing unit and take a tour of their facilities. This will help you to understand what kind of machineries they have, the standards they have in place, production line ethics, and various other details.



From the designing to the shipping of metal stamping products, the supplier should have proper standard and an assurance that all goods will be delivered on time. Do not just look at what they promise but also look at the equipments and strategies that they have to stick to their word. The suppliers need to be experienced tool makers and have years of work backing them up. Some of the designing software used by reputed suppliers is AutoCAD with die makers, Unigraphics 7.5 NX die wizards, and so on.

## 02 Experience in the field of metal stamping

Precision metal stamping is a field where experience plays a crucial role when it comes to choosing the supplier. As a client you need to make sure that all the crucial aspects of supplier are checked well before time. So you need to take out enough time to carefully carry out a research and try to find out the amount of experience that the suppliers have. There are various areas covered under metal stamping products and the kind of product you want may be different than the company's expertise, and so you need to make sure that the supplier has enough experience with these products. Take out time and try to get familiar with the products or components that have been stamped in the past; this will give you a brief idea about their expertise in this field. Get to know how they have done in the past when it comes to formed parts, flat parts, or both. Also understand how they work with intricate parts and their past records on the same. What is their ability to hold tight tolerance? How have they achieved complex bends and what progress are they doing on it currently? All these things will help you get a good idea about their experience. An experienced metal stamping supplier is in this field due to the fact that they are providing satisfying services from years.





### 03 Their ability to design precision stamping products

Not all suppliers have an experience team of professionals having the ability to design precisely what you need. The supplier should have a dedicated team for designing precision metal stamping dies. A supplier that has the capabilities to design and then build your metal stamping components has more potential of providing you with the best results in a long run. During the actual stamping operation it is the high precision and efficiency that plays a crucial role and a supplier having these capabilities will ensure that it is taken care of in the initial designing stage. The supplier will have added certain crucial features in stations that will help in contributing to the overall efficiency. In precision metal stamping production line there are incidences that are unplanned and there could be stamping issues that may come up at any given time. Suppliers adept with designing capabilities will have an added advantage of troubleshooting the problems in earlier stages and coming up with the right solution. This will not only help to troubleshoot a problem but will also help in saving lot of time and money in this aspect.



### 04 A good process control

This is yet another important criterion that you should base your decision on. The capability of metal stamping supplier in process control has a major impact on your project starting from the inception of the project.

In this regard, if the supplier is ISO certified this adds more value to the fact that there are set control processes in the company. It is important to understand how the metal stamping supplier is working with the control plans in place. Try to understand from the team on the scene to get a better idea on what they follow.

It is easy for a supplier to say that there are set quality systems in place, but following that quality process is more important thing that you need to figure out. So as you plan a visit to the manufacturing unit and production line, make sure that you try to understand more about their process control.



It is good to evaluate this aspect well before committing anything to the supplier. Quality technicians in a production unit of metal stamping suppliers play a crucial role in ensuring that the process for quality is followed perfectly, and so looking at their teams and work will help to give a better idea about this aspect. Not all suppliers invest in latest inspection equipments, and coming across these in supplier's production line will be a good indicator of what you can expect from your products.

## 05 What is their timeframe on delivery?

Suppliers will quote a delivery time that clients will want to hear, but what will help ensure that they stick to their promise. The track record will speak volumes about a supplier's commitment and actual delivery of products. If there are not standard procedures with a supplier to track their delivery timeframe you can be sure that there will be delays in your shipment as well. If you realize that there are no set timeframes in place, it will be best to just look for some other supplier that has set timeframe.



## 06 A proper die maintenance program

The life of a die depends on proper maintenance program being carried out by the suppliers. One of the most important things is to find out whether metal stamping suppliers have a dedicated team for this task. A proper die maintenance program helps to increase the life of a die and this in turn ensures that the total lifecycle cost for die and stamped components is kept to a low. Some of the important things included in die maintenance program are:



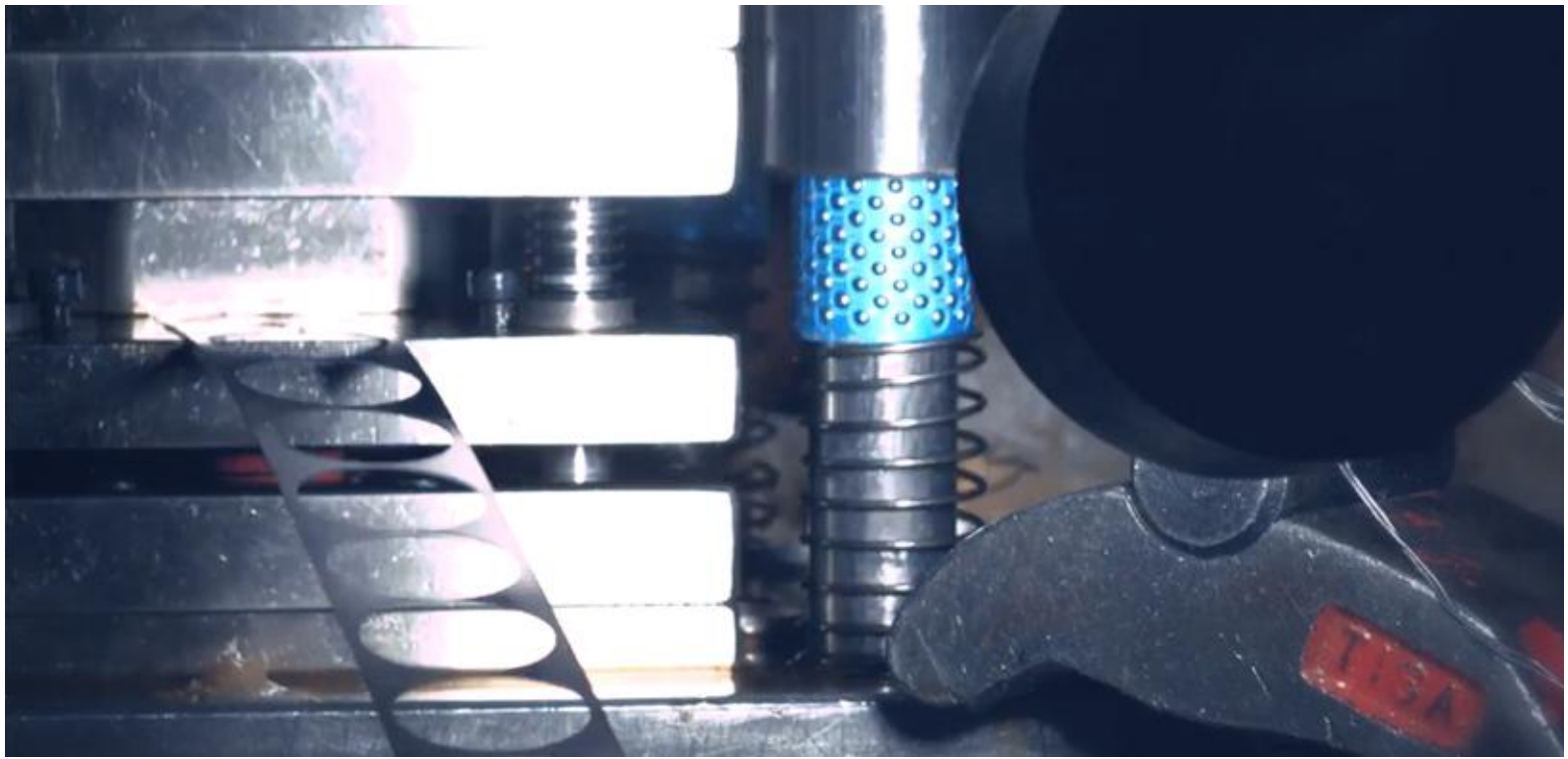
- Synchronization and adjustment of press, die and peripheral equipments
- Address the problems of die and die component inspection
- Adjusting the proper assembly, disassembling techniques,
- Setting up proper die component replacement schedules



These are some of the important things that can be never overlooked when it comes to a maintenance program. A proper program is a good indicator for the priorities of a supplier. A supplier with good program of maintenance does it not only to keep the production line running smoothly but mainly to ensure that the clients get best results.

## 07 What is their running speed?

Running speed of a metal stamping supplier has a major impact on overall cost, time, delivery, and quality of a component. As a client you need to check about their running speeds in various processes and metals to get a clear picture about what you can expect. An experienced supplier will ensure that there is quality with every component, but at the same time will also offer faster running speeds. This will help in faster delivery and also help you get the most optimized price. Some clients overlook this aspect, but it is not a good idea when considering larger picture. The average running speed will have a strong impact on lot of other areas, and so this aspect needs to be considered well in advance.



## 08 Policy on spare tooling

Is the supplier prepared with a backup for any unforeseen incidence? It is important to discuss this fact with a supplier well in advance; in fact, any reputed supplier will present or discuss this area much in advance.

Having a proper standard and procedures for spare tooling also increased success rate in a stamping project. In this regard, it is important to consider the overall cost when you compare one quote with another. However, the cost is not just for being cheap or expensive, but it is the value that this brings to your project.

Experienced suppliers have capability to manufacture their own spare tooling, and this definitely has long term benefits in this regard. So you need to make sure that you consider this aspect with them and be direct in ensuring their policies when it comes to spare tooling.





## 09 How is their attention to detail?

When it comes to precision metal stamping suppliers, it is all about their attention to fine details. You need to start noticing this aspect early in the communication stage with the potential supplier.

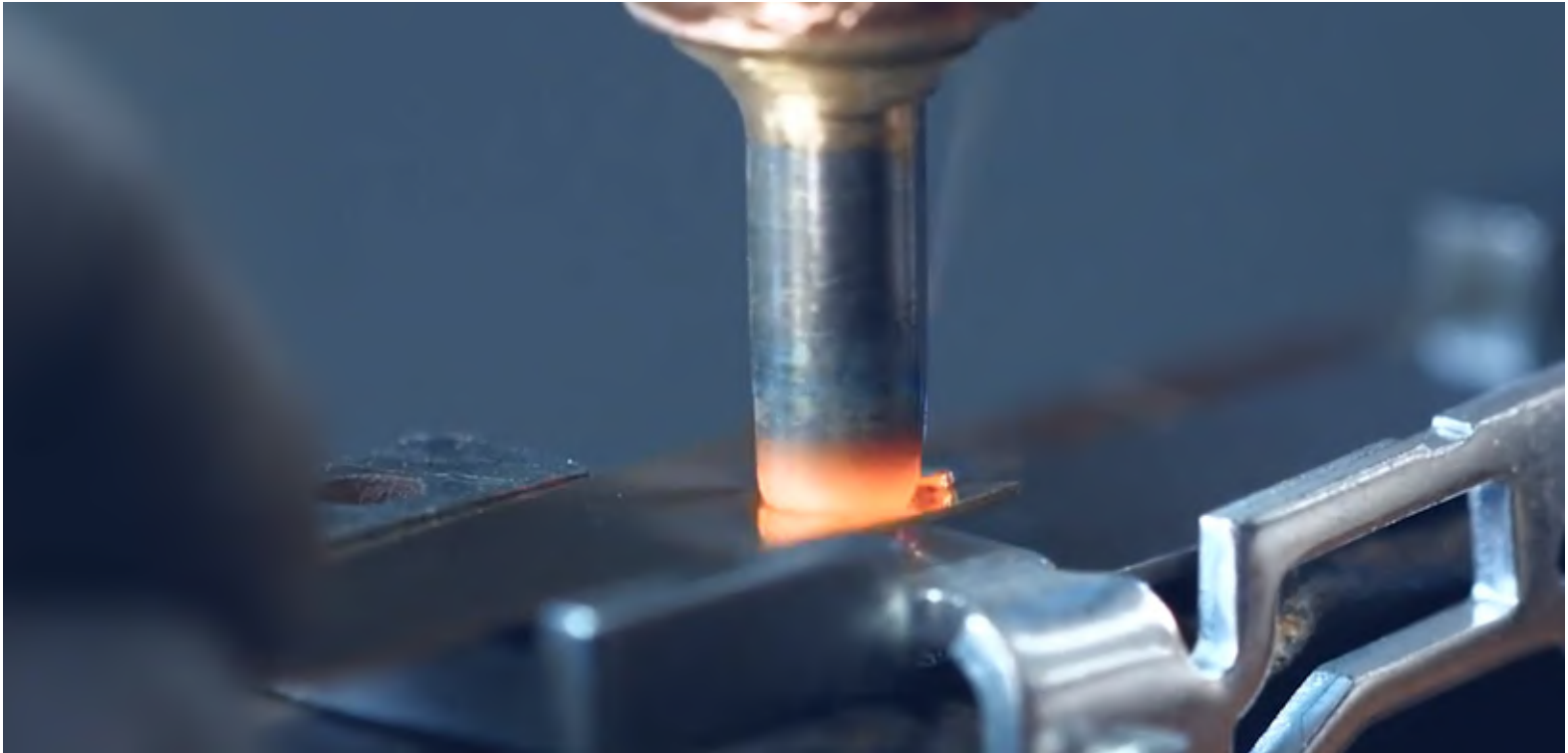
In addition to what they commit, it will be good to take a look at how they have fared with the past clients; this will help you get a better idea about them. This comes with a lot of question from a supplier, the questions will be based on key features you want, part quality you are looking for, tolerance, and so on. A supplier having proper attention to detail will take initiative and make sure that this is done from the starting of project.



## 10 What are their secondary services?

Above mentioned quality guides will help you identify a good metal stamping supplier, but if they provide secondary services such as electro plating, spot welding, riveting, ultrasonic cleaning, packaging and so on, then you can remain hassle free and get most of your tasks completed from them. The suppliers with secondary services will ensure that you get a finished product without investing lot of time and money because everything will be covered under one roof.

The above mentioned aspects will help you in finding a supplier that not only provides you with results that are good but exceeds your expectation.



### Eigen: Years of experience in maintaining stringent quality

Eigen has over 20 years of experience in providing the most efficient products to the clients. Throughout the years, the company has seen a lot of changes when it comes to quality requirements, and it has always aimed at remaining one step ahead of what is asked for. The precision metal stamping process at Eigen is most reliable and trustworthy for clients in and out of India.

The hard work and dedication for decades has paid off well for Eigen, and ISO 9001:2008 and ISO/TS 16949:2009 are quality certifications that Eigen has earned. This makes Eigen a reliable and trustworthy company for client from across the world.



# Thank You

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