

Injection Mould Enquiry Checklist

Send these nine things and any mould maker can give you a quotation you can actually compare. Leave one out and you will get a price built on an assumption you never saw.

WHAT TO SEND

- 3D model in a neutral format such as STEP or IGES
- 2D drawing marking the dimensions that actually matter
- Exact moulding grade including any filler or flame retardant package
- Colour, and whether the part is plated, painted or textured afterwards
- Annual volume and the expected programme life in years
- Target tool delivery date and whether a trial date matters more
- Mould base standard you want, if your tool room stocks spares
- Press details: clamp tonnage, tie bar spacing and shot capacity
- Any parts of the geometry you are willing to change

WHAT TO ASK FOR IN RETURN

- Cavity steel named, not described as high quality mould steel
- Impression count and slide count stated explicitly
- Gate type stated, with the reason for the choice
- Cycle time, with a note on whether it was measured or estimated
- Expected shot life for the cavity and core
- Trade term on the offer itself: FOB or CIF, and the port
- Lead time that includes the first trial and its corrections
- What the spare component set contains

WARNING SIGNS

- A price returned within an hour with no questions about the part
- A cavity steel described only by hardness
- A cycle time quoted before anybody asked the wall thickness
- A lead time that ends at shipment rather than at trial approval