

Prototype & Production: Leadtime Do's & Don'ts



Foreign Holidays

Don't forget international holidays, it can set back production.



Talk to Suppliers Regularly

Always maintain a regular dialogue with your supplier.



Official Start Dates

Don't assume your project starts as soon as you release a P.O. A queue may exist.



Discuss Major Changes with Suppliers & CM

Discuss major changes in management, key contacts or parts going end of life.



Receiving & Inventory Practices

Don't forget to consider timing of internal receiving and inventory policies.



Have a CAD Model

Have a CAD model in the proper format for your vendor.



Tracking & Ordering System

Have a detailed tracking and ordering system with defined responsibilities.



Iteration Support

Don't assume a production facility is willing or flexible enough to support iterations or variations to their existing production line. Always ask!



Spec & Drawing Approval from CM

Don't assume the incoming doc review will automatically get approved.



Inspection Prints

Have inspection prints for the chosen production technology.



Shelf Life

Don't forget to take into account the shelf life of certain materials - adhesives, silicones, paint, etc.



Balance Inventory & Consumption Rate

Do Balance your on-hand inventory levels with your consumption rate and production deliveries.



Material & Process Availability

Don't expect new materials or processes to be readily available.



Delivery Confirmation

Get delivery confirmation date and shipment tracking information.

