Everything You Need To Know About Transferring Tooling
Introduction

As the U.S. economy and the global manufacturing supply chain continue to shift, many companies are realizing the importance of maintaining a consistent inventory of parts and tooling for core operations. Tooling transfers, therefore, have become increasingly popular in today’s ever-evolving industrial landscape as OEMs take a closer look at supply chain risk management.

For many companies lacking the internal resources to maintain in-house tooling, tool transfers can serve as an ideal solution for achieving optimal production capacity and efficiency. Plus, transferring tooling to other companies with skilled in-house tooling staff is often an attractive option for businesses looking to perform maintenance on their tools without sacrificing valuable resources or manpower to do so.
Reasons to Consider Tooling Transfer

Difficulty Maintaining Tooling
There are several reasons why a company may opt to do a tool transfer. Many manufacturing businesses have very old tooling or product lines that are difficult to maintain without having certain resources on hand. For example, some smaller companies do not have tooling staff available in-house to perform needed tool work and repair. Other companies may have difficulty in finding adequately trained, skilled tooling laborers available for hire locally. In such instances, tooling transfers can be a valuable alternative to in-house tool maintenance and upkeep.

Issues with Supplier Quality and Delivery
Some manufacturers consider making tooling transfers if the parts they’re receiving from their current suppliers have deteriorated in quality or are inconsistent in form, quality, or appearance. In this way, tooling transfer can be an effective means of addressing quality and delivery issues with suppliers.

Avoiding Production Delays
Tooling transfers can also help reduce the risk of end users experiencing production delays and disruptions, which are often the result of economic volatility in the countries where overseas suppliers are located.
The Benefits of Tooling Transfer

Streamline Production Operations

Manufacturers facing issues like the ones listed above often find that tooling transfers offer a range of unique benefits, helping to improve efficiency, quality, and speed throughout all operations. First, tooling transfers may help in streamlining production operations, allowing for greater efficiency and ease of operations. Plus, with access to other facilities' equipment and tools that may be much more up-to-date and advanced, companies can ensure enhanced quality and reliability while saving time and money.

Increase Capacity

Smoother tooling operations can lead to increased capacity as well, allowing manufacturers to focus on their core competencies/processes or handle much higher-volume runs. And this, in turn, can allow for greater earnings, as companies are able to position themselves as leaders in their field. Higher-production volume may also reduce the amount of time needed for shipping, in turn allowing for cost savings. Transferring tooling from existing in-house manufacturing facilities can serve to reduce production bottlenecks.

Reduce Risk

Since tooling transfers diversify suppliers, overall risk is minimized as well; with this increased flexibility, companies can rest assured that they will always have a supplier on hand to handle rush orders or complex tooling needs. And in the most dire situations, tool transfers can even prevent costly facility shutdowns, as companies are able to quickly source the services they need from other suppliers.
How to Ensure a Successful Tool Transfer

To ensure your tool transfer is successful, it’s important to follow a few key steps:

› First, companies should be sure to request a quote from at least one firm in order to see who can provide the most robust offerings.

› The manufacturer should then ship their existing tool to the selected firm for a careful inspection in order to determine whether the tool meets applicable quality and production standards. The manufacturer should carefully consider any recommendations and feedback provided by the receiving company; this will help in determining whether the tool can be used as is or if it requires repairs.

› The receiving company, on the other hand, should perform a full tool engineering review, with detailed input from multiple team members, including the quality control manager, tool room manager, foreman, and general maintenance manager. Upon receiving the tooling, the tool room manager and engineering department should take a detailed inventory of all the tools that have been received. The tool room and set up team responsible for running the tooling should do a thorough inspection of the tooling in order to identify any issues early on. This team should then sample the tool to assess its condition and shape before performing any work.

› Finally, full Quality Control documentation ranging from full PPAP to FAI and production samples should be submitted by the company awarded the work to the customer. Both companies’ quality control departments should perform a thorough assessment to ensure that the piece part samples and Q.C. documentation meet all relevant quality, operational, and safety standards.
Transferring tooling can be a very effective method for addressing common manufacturing issues, including lack of in-house tooling staff, supplier uncertainty, and inefficient production operations. It can also be a practical way to streamline processes, increase run capacity, and minimize disruptions — enhancing your company’s reputation for quality and service, and allowing you to focus on your core competencies/processes or take on higher-volume projects for more clients.

Manor Tool is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company, and our commitment to quality extends to every project we undertake. With expertise in custom tooling for metal stampings and formed components, we will work with you to develop a plan that fits your exact needs. To learn more about the benefits of tooling transfer and discuss your options with an expert, reach out to the team at Manor Tool today.
About Us

Manor Tool & Manufacturing Company began as a tool and die shop in 1959, and has grown to become a first class metal stamping company, specializing in punching, bending, forming and deep drawn stampings. Manor can produce your low volume needs in the prototype stage and produce your high volume needs that require progressive tooling.

We produce your prototypes and short run stampings or fabricated parts with a turret and press brakes, while concentrating on hard tooling when the quantities are justified.

In addition to building new tooling for your parts, we can run your dies in our 32 Press facility. Many of our customers send us their existing dies from another stamping supplier in order to solve problems of quality or delivery at competitive prices.