

# Rangers Results

Die casting solutions  
for OEMs



RANGERS  
SINCE 1946

More than 60 years producing precision aluminum die castings



Rangers Die Casting

ISO 9001:2008

Summer 2012

## A Roadmap for Effective Die Casting Purchasing

Experience and collaboration are hallmarks of Rangers Die Casting's approach to our business. We have more than six decades of experience delivering effective customer solutions. One of the reasons for our success is that we collaborate with our customers to understand their needs and create quality aluminum die cast components.

Meaningful, long-term working relationships require an understanding by both the die caster and the customer of what is expected from each side. Many customers understand how our business works, and the commercial arrangements that keep the process flowing smoothly. However, sometimes a new business or a company that is converting a part to die casting from some other process may not understand how these commercial arrangements affect the buying of die castings. That's where having a roadmap to help guide purchasers comes in handy.

As a member of the North American Die Casting Association (NADCA), we wholeheartedly support their initiative to educate designers and buyers about the ins-and-outs of die casting commercial practices. NADCA has developed a guide, "Commercial Practices for Die Casting Buyers," that serves as a roadmap for all our business procedures.

The guide explains the trade customs have evolved from a half-century of industry-wide production experience and have generally been accepted as good business practice. The guidelines and checklists in the document not only help die us develop proposals and contracts, but help to ensure that buyers understand what they're getting.

In specifying die cast production, the purchase contract can be viewed as the purchase of a comprehensive engineering service from the die caster who will use the purchaser's tool to convert metal to the precise form desired by the purchaser.

Beyond this basic agreement, a die caster will usually provide other

important services, such as designing, constructing or maintaining the tool and performing machining and surface finishing operations on die cast parts. Many other elements, ranging from alloy specifications to quality control processes and sub-assembly services may also be part of the contract.

To learn more about effective ways to work with a die caster, give us a call. You can also review the NADCA guidelines by visiting <http://www.diecastingdesign.org/checklists/>.

## Our Commitment to Integrated Quality Assurance Efforts

Rangers has a long-standing commitment to quality. We were the first die caster in the western states to use x-ray technology to inspect castings for various anomalies like shrink and porosity and we continue to be a leader in the use of this technology.

However, this is equipment is just one piece of our ongoing, plant-wide integration of QA programs. Our approach to quality is focused on

detecting any potential problems and taking corrective action as soon as possible. Integral to all plant operations and procedures are maintaining the standards mandated by our ISO 9000 – 2001 accreditation.

We take a number of steps to continuously monitor the quality of the aluminum die cast components we produce. During the design phase, we conduct pre-production capability studies and examine die design to see if there are opportunities for quality improvement or cost reduction. We also monitor incoming alloys for quality standards and use several computer modules for in-process QA monitoring.

A good example of how these modules work as part of our integrated quality approach is the use of our Job Costing module and our Die Management module. During the planning phases, the Job Cost module allows us to pro-rate the cost of a die for aluminum cast parts based on a pre-determined number of shots. The system also contributes to our quality efforts because it automatically alerts key personnel when an aluminum casting's estimated weight varies from the actual shot weight.

The Die Management program tracks all aspects of a die's life from quoting, production and scheduling to quality control and maintenance. From a quality control standpoint, it provides two significant capabilities:

- Automatically alerting die maintenance personnel when a die reaches its shot limit.
- Placing a stop code on a die to prevent manufacturing activity for that die.

These features ensure that a worn die is not used to produce components, which would create waste and parts that do not meet quality standards. Another benefit of the module is that it will auto-calculate die replacement/amortization costs if a new die is needed.

To learn more about our proactive approach to quality assurance, visit [http://www.rangersdiecasting.com/advanced\\_quality\\_planning.html](http://www.rangersdiecasting.com/advanced_quality_planning.html).

## Rangers Becomes Corporate NADCA Member

Rangers Die Casting has joined the ranks of North American custom die casters who recognize the numerous benefits of corporate membership in the North American Die Casting Association (NADCA). As a corporate member, Rangers is better positioned to keep pace with industry developments and trends through NADCA's extensive business resources, such as the commercial practices guidelines noted elsewhere in this newsletter.

Located in Wheeling, IL, other NADCA services include various surveys/special reports, training and development initiatives, market data and other information that enhances dialogue with OEM purchasers and engineering management. The special "corporate designation" now appears on the NADCA logo carried in this newsletter. ■

## Rangers Die Casting Company

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### Commercial Practices for Die Casting Buyers



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