

SUPPLIER READINESS EVALUATION

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In today's difficult economic environment, your business is even more dependent on your supply chain. You are only as strong as your weakest supplier.

Typically, companies conduct an evaluation of the *financial* health of their suppliers. We believe that it is equally important to evaluate your suppliers' *manufacturing* health. Only a seasoned manufacturing management veteran can probe deeply enough to uncover hidden weakness in the processes that are vital to uninterrupted supply. Through a combination of interviews and on-site observations, we provide you with an assessment of the following critical processes:

- Production equipment readiness and capacity
- Workforce training and readiness
- Material flow
- MRP/ERP systems
- Engineering change control
- Maintenance and tooling
- Quality systems
- Continuous improvement processes
- Supply chain management

We believe this evaluation is *mandatory* when considering sourcing to a new supplier or when involved in a start-up situation. Periodic reviews of existing suppliers provide *insurance* to protect your business from unwanted surprises.

Jim Alderfer has over 40 years of manufacturing and project planning experience. After 35 years with The Budd Company (retiring as President of Budd Canada), Jim has worked with teams at Kvaerner Philadelphia Shipyard (now Aker), Mercedes-Benz US, Gestamp NA and Atlantic Marine Alabama. Manufacturing system processes are his area of expertise.