



Tooling Development Engineer Grand Rapids, MI

Company Overview:

Custom Profile (www.custom-profile.com) is a privately held manufacturer of plastic extruded products with over \$25 million in annual sales and 165 employees at its locations in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Juarez, Mexico. The company is an industry leader in the profile extrusion industry, currently ranked 83rd on the list of largest plastic extruders across all market segments. The company is looking to grow organically and acquisitively with plans of \$50+ million revenue in the next 3-5 years. The company is owned by Sam Nicholas, the founder and Blackford Capital, a private equity firm with offices in Grand Rapids, MI and Los Angeles, CA. Founded in 1992, Custom Profile has enjoyed consistent annual growth in its revenues and earnings in 19 of its 21 years in operation. Custom Profile boasts a blue chip customer base, including Herman Miller, Haworth, Hon/Allsteel, Steelcase, Whirlpool, Electrolux, Hoover and others.

Job Description:

Reporting to the Tooling Development Manager this is a hands-on position responsible for the development of tooling for extruded plastic profiles for both production and prototype products. The Tooling Development Engineer will also have responsibility to establish and document the production process.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the development of extrusion tooling including extrusion dies, vacuum calibration blocks, tape fixtures, promoter fixtures, embossing station, punch press, punch tooling, etc.
- Perform all necessary color trials and the evaluation of new materials.
- Participate in the New Production Launch process (NPL).
- Work with the Design Department to develop initial tool design(s) and to make improvements to existing tool design(s).
- Document process parameters and standard work. Provide the necessary information for the completion of the manufacturing set up specification.
- Work with Manufacturing to improve new and existing extrusion processes.
- Train employees on newly released tooling and processes; communicate quality expectations and update production set up specification as needed.
- Maintain a clean and organized work area; follow daily housekeeping and 5S standards.
- Promote and maintain a culture and attitude of continuous improvement, working within the company team to make it more efficient, safety and an enjoyable place to work.

Qualifications and Requirements

- Minimum of 5 years of plastic profile extrusion development experience required; a suitable combination of education and experience will also be considered.
- Bachelor Degree in Engineering preferred, but not required.

Strength in the following areas required:

- Experience with the following materials: ABS, HIPS, PVC, Polypropylene, TPE's and HDPE
- Experience with single and dual extrusions running on a single screw extruder(s)
- Experience with streamline and flat back extrusion dies and vacuum calibration tools.
- Experience with inline fabrication processes
- Blueprint reading
- Strong problem solving
- Strong communication skills
- Strong math skills
- GD&T

Experience in the following areas is preferred:

- Experience with twin screw extruders, corrugated tube and/or foamed profiles.
- Lean Manufacturing

Physical Demands:

- Must be able to lift and/or move up to 50 lbs.
- The noise level in our work environment is moderate.
- Safety glasses and closed-toe shoes must be worn on the production floor.
- Some travel, mostly local, is occasionally required.