

The Mechanics Product Development Process Map

Do you have a clear picture of your company processes, methods & tools used during a mechanical product development?

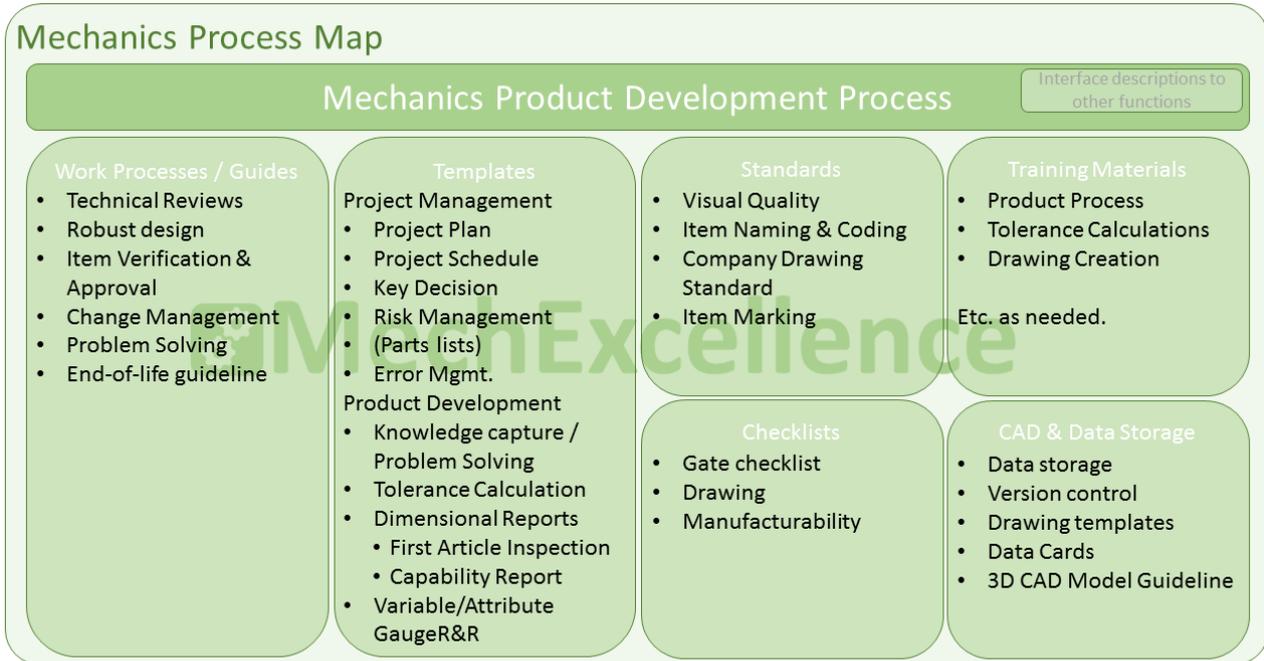
If you do, you will properly agree with me, that it is a great starting point for new colleagues to understand how projects are executed, as well as a benefit in understanding where processes & methods are lacking and can be improved

Identify your mechanics process map to kick start improvements in your product development execution

The example below is made based on process types and purposes. Another visualization could be on a timeline showing when different items are relevant in the development process.



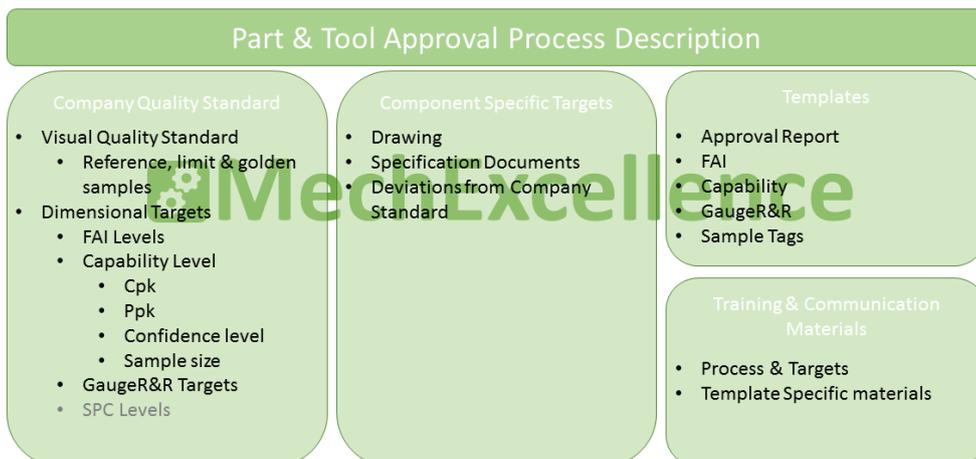
Mechanics Process Map



The above process map is just an example and does not necessarily covers all items, like some items might not be relevant in your company. Your process map must be determined based on your development activities, the tools & methods used, together with the organizational set up, its defined roles and responsibilities in your company.

Process maps are specific to the company

It is also possible to make sub-process maps for specific tasks. An example for a sub-process map for approval of components and tools is shown below.





Again, this is just an example and not all processes call up for a detailed sub-process map.

The process map can be made visible on walls, webpages/sharepoint or in the company business process tool - if available and fitting the purpose. The importance is, that it is easy to find, see, refer to and most importantly; Discuss around.

Below, I have listed some of the benefits I see in having a visible process map (not in prioritized order);

- Visibility & alignment within the mechanic's team of required processes and methods.
- Clarity for new colleagues of process, methods and tools
- Training to and alignment with other functions in regards to the mechanical interfaces to these processes and enhanced understanding of the mechanical development
- Starting point for continuous development of processes and work methods
- Starting point for competence evaluation and development
- A foundation for outsourcing, or move of activities to other sites.

To gain full benefit of the process map, the different areas need to be detailed to an appropriate level for the given purpose, and the work methods used in the company. A process driven company properly needs more detailed process than for example an organization based on small self-leading teams. A company having many development sites with similar product development and interfaces cross sites and with the use of same suppliers would also benefit from detailed processes, whereas smaller companies with all activities on one site can do with less detailed processes.

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