



Meet our team

A day in the life of our Aldermans quality supervisor

Tony McEwen

What is your job at Aldermans?

As well as being responsible for the quality of our products I also mentor our apprentices and co-ordinate our students. In addition I look after the internal auditing for the business, ensuring compliance to ISO 9001 at all times.

What do you do on a typical day at work?

My day starts at 7.00am, and the main focus of the day is checking the quality of the products we make here at Aldermans. I inspect the products according to the criteria laid down in the design specification – for example, dimensions and finish. I also check for damage. If anything is out of spec I raise it with the production manager. My day ends at 5.00pm each day, Monday to Friday – but it goes very fast!

What do you enjoy about your job here?

I enjoy my work because no two days are the same. I enjoy dealing with our customers – when a rejected product is returned it's my job to discuss the problem with them and help find a solution. It's good to help them; it's an interesting job; and we have such a wide range of customers here, each different from the next.



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What equipment do you use in your work?

I have a range of tools and equipment for quality control. For example, I use a micrometer and a vernier calliper to check and measure the tight tolerances to which we often have to work, too. I also record a lot of this information electronically in order to produce the reports and SPC (statistical processing control) control charts to monitor how well we are performing.

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When did you start working by Aldermans?

I've been at Aldermans for over 22 years.

How did you become quality supervisor?

I'm a time-served toolmaker by trade. Before my job as quality supervisor I worked in stores, production and in the tool room – so I've worked my way up the ranks, and that's all really helpful experience for my job today. When I started the quality supervisor role I worked alongside a colleague for six months to help me learn the ropes.

What's so good about Aldermans that you've worked here for such a long time?

It's a family-run business with 40 employees, and everyone knows and supports each other. The values of the company are strong; and it makes for a working environment which is motivating and encourages every employee to do a good job. My job also constantly throws up exciting challenges.

What would you do if you weren't a quality supervisor?

I'd go back to the tool room. I enjoyed that, because of the constant change and challenge, with no two products or days the same.

How do you spend your free time?

I enjoy time with my family. I have a thirteen year old son, and we spend a lot of time on the golf course!

Is playing golf helpful for your work at Aldermans?

Both golf and quality control demand care and accuracy! The job has definitely helped me develop stamina on the golf course, too. It's a good way to unwind and get some balance in life and refresh myself for work again.

About Aldermans

A family firm, established in Plymouth for over 45 years, we're one of the region's best-known and respected metal fabricators.

Combining traditional skills with the latest technologies, we offer our clients an integrated metalwork service, from design and prototyping to small or large-scale production runs.

Our technologies include press tooling, pressbrake folding, CNC machining (lasering, punching, milling, turning), cutting, welding, assembly and kitting, and powder coating.

We are proud to hold the EN ISO 9001 quality management certification.

As well as investing regularly in the latest technologies, we also invest in our staff through training in manufacturing management techniques, such as lean manufacturing and Six Sigma.

We are an active member of PMG, the Plymouth Manufacturers' Group.