Checklist for 5 tips to make 2D drawings easier to work with

We all have the same issues, but it's hard to know where to focus to gain some quick but impactful wins. That's why we've put together this easy-to-use checklist for you.

☐ Create a central document management system for all drawings. If possible, set up feature to send a notification to stakeholders to notify when a new release is available.

Benefit: People will only have access to the latest version of the PDF so there's no problem with documentation version control and management.

☐ Mandate a manual QA process to ensure drawings are checked prior to fabrication

Pro Tip: Look for technologies that automate that process. This will allow automation between the data sets and 2D drawings.

☐ Use a free viewer (e.g. Navisworks Freedom) to make 3D models more accessible. Or include more 3D graphics on the 2D drawings for better visual understanding.

Benefits: Having a 3D model is ideal as it allows you to rotate, pivot, and hide things so you have a clear idea of what you're trying to accomplish. But even without the 3D model at large, we're seeing people starting to use the 3D model on a free viewer to provide additional clarification.

☐ Automate the process of extracting the pages that are relevant to your specific shop order.

Pro Tip: Although the process of highlighting does help expedite the work, it's a manual process. There's technology out there that allows you to automate that process and extract the pages that are relevant to your specific shop order. They can produce the MI per shop order.

☐ Increase the markings on the plate to reduce the requirements of needing to add details to the drawings

Pro Tip: You don't want to rely on someone holding a tape measure. The strategy we've been recommending our clients is to increase the markings on the plate. Some clients go further and put the marking on where the weld needs to be – by increasing markings it reduces the requirements of needing to add details to the drawing.