Manufacturing Engineer

Reports To: Head of Engineering
Location: Forrest IL
Employment Type: Full-Time

Position Summary

The Manufacturing Engineer is responsible for supporting and improving manufacturing processes within a custom steel fabrication environment. This role focuses on translating customer requirements into efficient production methods, creating and maintaining manufacturing documentation, supporting production teams, and driving continuous improvement initiatives. The ideal candidate has hands-on experience in steel fabrication and possesses strong technical skills in CAD software, ERP systems, and manufacturing processes.

A formal engineering degree is not required; however, practical experience and a strong understanding of steel fabrication operations are essential.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop, review, and improve manufacturing processes for custom steel fabrication projects.
- Create and maintain shop drawings, fabrication drawings, work instructions, and production documentation.
- Collaborate with production management, purchasing, and production teams to ensure successful project execution.
- Interpret customer drawings, specifications, and engineering documents.
- Design and optimize fixtures, tooling, and production workflows to improve efficiency and quality.
- Generate bills of materials (BOMs), routings, and production records within the ERP system.
- Provide technical support to production personnel.
- Identify and implement process improvements that reduce costs, improve throughput, and enhance quality.
- Assist with resolving production issues, non-conformances, and manufacturing bottlenecks.
- Maintain accurate manufacturing records and engineering revisions.
- Ensure compliance with company quality standards and safety requirements.

Required Qualifications

- Minimum 2 years of experience in steel fabrication, metal manufacturing, or a related industrial environment.
- Strong understanding of fabrication processes including:
  - Welding
  - Cutting
  - Forming
  - Assembly
  - Material handling
- Ability to read and interpret fabrication drawings and blueprints.
- Experience using SolidWorks and/or AutoCAD.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite or equivalent office productivity software.
- Experience working with an ERP system for manufacturing, inventory, or production management.
- Strong problem-solving and organizational skills.
- Ability to manage multiple projects and priorities in a fast-paced custom manufacturing environment.
- Excellent communication and teamwork skills.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience programming or supporting robotic welding systems.
- Familiarity with CNC equipment and manufacturing automation.
- Knowledge of welding symbols, ISO 9001 standards, and quality control procedures.

Physical Requirements

- Ability to work in both office and manufacturing shop environments.
- Frequent walking through production areas.
- Ability to wear required PPE and safely navigate an active fabrication facility.

Success Factors

The successful candidate will:

- Understand the realities of custom steel fabrication and make practical, production-focused decisions.
- Work effectively with production personnel and office staff.
- Continuously seek opportunities to improve efficiency, quality, and customer satisfaction.
- Take ownership of projects from concept through production.