

CHECKLIST

Metal Marking

Key questions to help determine your metal marking requirements

Before you invest in new or upgraded inkjet printer technology for your metal marking and coding application, you'll need to know the answers to some key questions. Here's a handy checklist.

What are your reasons for seeking a metal marking solution?

- Greater productivity?
- Process automation?
- Improved mark legibility?
- Enhanced product branding?
- Lower operating expenses?
- Better sustainability?
- Improved traceability?

What are your core requirements?

- What is the product you need to mark?
- What is the product's size and shape?
- What is the material and hardness?
- What color marks do you need?
- What is the usage of your product(s)? (longevity of marks, special ink requirements, outdoor storage, etc.)

What are the surface conditions?

- Temperature during marking?
- The environment the product will exist in?
- The eventual usage of the marked product?

How large or small do the marks need to be?

- How many lines of print do you require?
- What color should the mark be?
- How will the mark be read? (bar code scanner, humans ...)

What is the production rate at which the product must be marked?

- Is the product stationary or moving on the production line? How fast?
- How much space is available within the production line?
- What will the printer orientation need to be? (over, under, side, inside ...)
- How far is the substrate from the printer?

What kind of ink is required?

- Fast dry time?
- Heat-tolerant?
- Cuts through oils, lubricants, coatings or mill scale?
- Meets specific industry regulations or requirements?
- Low VOC?

Where is the message coming from?

- Is it a static message like a logo?
- Does variable or serialized information need to be printed?
- Does the message need to be pulled from a production management system?
- What level of integration is needed on the production line?
- How skilled are your operators at managing technology?

Knowing your current processes — and potential future needs — is essential. If you aren't sure how to answer all the above questions, it's time to seek advice from the experts in the field of product coding and marking.

Recognized for having the most reliable printing technology and high-temp inks for the metal industry, Matthews provides turnkey and custom-engineered solutions for any kind of mark on any type of metal — from steel pipe to sheet metal to 2D codes, barcodes, large or small character marks, and everything in between. Our deep industry experience and in-house engineering know-how means we can offer the broadest range of quality, scalable solutions for both low- and high-volume producers.



Visit our [Metal Marking Solutions](#) page or scan the QR code.