

# First Article Inspection

## Standard and AS9102 FAI Reports

**Standard First Article Inspection (FAI)** is a production validation process for verifying that new or modified production processes produce conforming parts that meet the manufacturing specifications detailed in drawings and purchase orders prior to beginning full production.

Ames Rubber Mfg. performs an in-depth evaluation to verify that all engineering, design and specification requirements are correctly understood, accounted for, verified and recorded.

The inspection will also confirm that, as a supplier, our material, tooling, processes, documentation, and personnel can reliably and consistently produce a part that meets customer requirements throughout the production process.



Once it is determined that the part is ready for customer approval, the FAI, along with the physical part, will be shipped to the customer for approval. Once approved, Ames Rubber Mfg. will move into the production phase and fulfill the balance of the order.

***Please note that lead times for production begin after a first article is approved by the customer.***

First article inspection reports can be extremely detailed, but are a very important part of the manufacturing process. Some of the key components considered in an inspection are:

- To verify the accuracy of drawings and ensure that they reflect any changes made to parts design during the prototype design.
- To verify the production process in every parameter, including dimensional measurements and specification requirements, rather than just concentrating on “critical” dimensions.
- To verify all tooling used to produce a part and ensure that it is capable of producing parts to specification.
- To verify the ability of the manufacturer to meet the needs of production.

Due to the fact that a FAI is primarily concerned with proving repeatability, it is not necessary to perform this inspection beyond the first production run unless something significant has changed dimensionally, such as new or modified tooling.

Ames Rubber Mfg. provides a FAI with each new order that requires one, however due to the labor intensive nature of this process, if a FAI is required on a re-order, there will be a separate charge applied to the order, to be determined depending on the detail and complexity of the part.

**AS9102 First Article Inspection** is available when required. This is the North American aerospace standard for First Article Inspection Requirements. The cost for this detailed test depends upon the complexity and dimension of the part, as well as the number of parts required for this enhanced First Article Inspection.

