

Thortex Testimonial



We are now into our seventh month of Net-Inspect being an integral part of our manufacturing process and we continue to see improvement month-on-month. My favorite moment had to do with the launching of a new project for a distal stem for a tibial knee component. To be a viable supplier to the Orthopedic Market our products must be above reproach from a dimensional integrity standpoint. Tolerances are exceptionally tight.



I was sitting at my desk one afternoon and an email-alert from the Net-Inspect system flashed on my screen. This was the first lot of parts that we were running and we typically associate some learning with the start of a new project. The cause of the discrepancy was "Part loaded into fixture incorrectly". The corrective action was "Retrain the Operator". I had a bit of a problem with this, as the operator is one of our best. I trusted the system to take care of the problem.

The next morning I again received an email-alert and it was for the same part and lot but after several more parts had been machined. The cause and corrective action were the same as the previously alert. The only thing that changed was the operator. Interestingly enough this operator was every bit as good and experienced as the previous operator. I went out on the floor to investigate. To my delight the Manufacturing Manager and Engineering Manager, who also received alerts, were already investigating the process. With input from the operators we modified the fixture. We completed the launch of 750 parts with no additional discrepant parts. Parts made prior to the fixture modification used 100% of the tolerance. The parts after the fixture modification used approximately 20% of the tolerance and the operator efficiency was tremendously improved. We saved one of the two deviated parts so we lost only one piece on a new part launch. This is a very powerful tool.

Thortex

Dave Walker
President