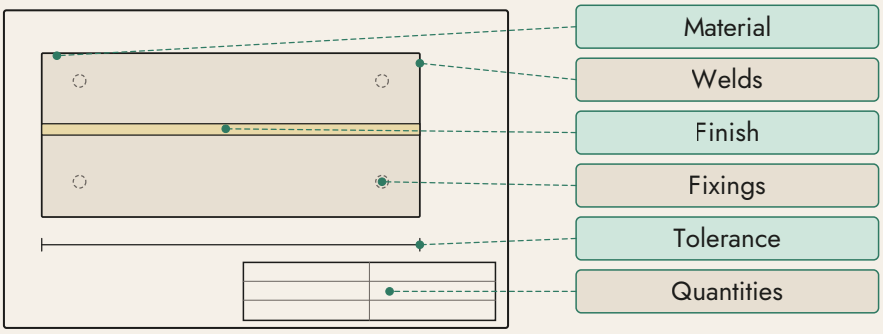
Metalwork *brief* checklist

Twelve things to put on a metalwork drawing so the quote is complete and the result predictable.

AT A GLANCE

No.	Put on the drawing	State exactly	If missing, expect
1	Item, quantity, revision	Item code, number off, left and right pairs, spares, drawing revision and date, and what the drawing is for.	A price for another revision or another number off.
2	Metal, form, thickness	The metal by its standard designation, the form (sheet, bar, tube, casting) and the thickness in millimetres, not a gauge number.	A grade or thickness that fits the words.
3	Material evidence	Whether a batch test certificate is wanted (EN 10204 type 3.1 is the usual request) and for which items.	Material with no certificate, or one priced as an extra.
4	Dimensions and datum	Finished sizes, the datum they run from, and which dimensions come from a survey and which from the drawing.	Sizes taken from the drawing, not the site.
5	General tolerance	One reference for every dimension with no tolerance of its own (EN ISO 13920 and a class, for welded work).	The workshop's own default.
6	Critical tolerance	Individual tolerances only where parts fit or line up: inlay gaps, a door in a frame, flatness.	The general tolerance everywhere, or a price for tolerancing everything.
7	Welds and their finish	Where each weld is, the joint, and the finish from the weld ladder: as welded, expressed, ground flush, refinished.	The cheapest finish that is not obviously wrong.
8	Finish and grain	Finish by code or sample, grain direction and roughness (Ra); colour and gloss for paint; layer thickness.	The fabricator's default finish.
9	Visible and hidden faces	Which faces are seen, from how far and in what light, and which are hidden.	The same finish on every face, or none.
10	Fixings	Type, material, head and drive, spacing, visible or hidden, what they fix into, and isolation from other metals.	Fixings chosen to suit, with no corrosion check.
11	Samples and approvals	The signed control sample and limit samples, who signs, and when.	A match to its own sample.
12	Protection and packing	Protective film to stay on until fixed, packing, marking of parts, delivery floor and route, who installs.	Bare, unmarked parts and no one responsible for site damage.

The numbers match the balloons on the annotated drawing. 'If missing, expect' describes the usual consequence of a gap, not a certainty: it is the studio's reading and has not been checked with fabricators.



What a fabricator reads off one drawing sheet. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio; schematic.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

DRAWING NOTE BLOCK

Metal: [316 stainless steel, EN 1.4404], [sheet], [2.0] mm finished thickness. Certificate: [EN 10204 3.1]. Dimensions are finished sizes from [datum]. General tolerances: [EN ISO 13920, class [ ]] for welded assemblies, [ ] for other parts; critical dimensions are marked [ ]. Welds as scheduled, [ground flush and refinished] on faces marked [V]. Finish: [EN 10088-2 2J, Ra not more than [ ] um, grain vertical].

FINISH, VIEWING AND SAMPLES

Faces marked [V] are visible and are judged at [3] m in [diffuse daylight] by [the designer]. Control sample [S-01], signed [date], is the standard for appearance; limit samples [S-02, S-03] mark the range. Protective film to remain until [fixing]. Parts marked [ ] and packed [ ].

FABRICATOR'S ASSUMPTIONS

Before pricing, the fabricator is to list every assumption about material, finish, tolerance class, weld finish and quality level, fixings, certificates, packing or quantities that is not shown on these drawings, and to state the general tolerance class and weld quality level it will work to.

TERMS USED

Mill certificate (3.1)

A document from the metal producer stating the grade and test results of the batch. Asking for a '3.1' certificate is how a specifier proves the material is what the drawing says.

General tolerance class

A default tolerance applied to dimensions on a drawing that carry no individual tolerance. Drawings without one are considered incomplete.

Weld quality level (ISO 5817)

A grading of acceptable weld imperfections from stricter (B) to looser (D). It is about defects, not about how a weld looks.

Significant surface

The part of a piece that is seen or that must perform, where the finish is judged. Coating standards use the term; mark it on the drawing.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- EN ISO 13920:2023, Welding: general tolerances for welded constructions: listing read only.
- BS EN 10204:2004, Metallic products: types of inspection documents: listing read only.
- BS 8888:2025, Technical product documentation and specification: listing read only.
- EN ISO 2553:2019, Welding symbols on drawings: listings only.
- Qualisteelcoat Technical Specifications 5.0.1 (valid 1 January 2026), section 6.13: viewing distances for coated parts.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/metalwork-brief-checklist. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.