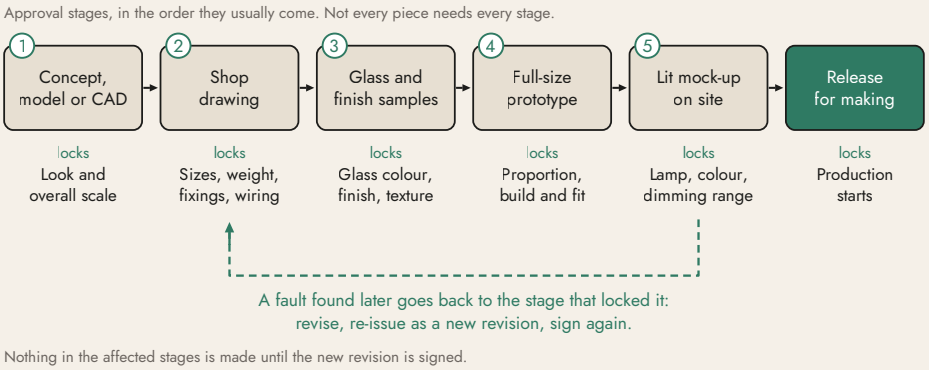
Shop drawings, mock-ups and *approval* for bespoke lighting

Six approval stages for a bespoke luminaire, what each signature locks, how to run a lit mock-up, and wording to paste into a specification. Practice guidance: agree the stages and the cost in the scope.

AT A GLANCE

Stage	What you review	What the sign-off locks	Who signs
1 Concept, model or CAD	Form, scale and proportion in the space, as a 3D model, CAD or a small scale model.	The look and overall scale the shop drawing must follow.	Designer and client
2 Shop drawing	Plan, elevations and sections to dimension: fixing and suspension, weight, wiring, driver, lamp, IP rating, glass fixings.	Sizes and drop, weight and fixing load, electrical arrangement, IP rating.	Designer and electrical engineer; structural engineer where the ceiling carries load
3 Glass and finish samples	Glass colour and surface and the metal finish, on the real material, in a named light.	Glass colour, surface and finish: the control sample.	Designer and client; the maker keeps a matching copy
4 Full-size prototype	One fitting, built as drawn, weighed, and hung or stood for inspection.	Proportion, build quality, weight and how it hangs.	Designer and maker
5 Lit mock-up on site	The fitting, or a representative one, in position with the project lamp, driver and dimmer, seen at the hour of use.	The light: lamp, colour temperature, dimming range and lowest level, glare.	Designer, lighting designer, client and electrical engineer
6 Release for making	The signed set: drawing revision, control samples and the mock-up record.	Production starts to this set only. Later change is a new revision.	Designer and client

Not every piece needs every stage. The stages are practice, not a standard: agree your own split with the workshop.



The approval stages for a bespoke luminaire in the order they usually come, what each signature locks, and the loop back. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio: a general pattern, not a record of any project.

RUNNING THE LIT MOCK-UP

- Use the real components: the specified light source, driver and dimmer.
- Step through the whole dimming range in written steps: lowest level, smoothness, flicker.
- Hang it where it will hang, with the real materials, and view it at the hour of use.
- Compare fittings side by side if there are several, and record source, driver, control, settings, levels and the decision.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

SHOP DRAWINGS

Before manufacture the supplier issues shop drawings of each luminaire type for approval, in plan, elevation and section, to dimension, showing overall size and drop [ ], total weight [ ] kg and the load on each fixing, canopy and ceiling build-up, fixing detail, electrical supply, driver type and position with access, light source type and maximum power, IP rating, protection class and rating plate position, glass fixings and spares. Each drawing carries a revision letter. Nothing is made until its drawing is returned approved, or approved as noted.

GLASS AND FINISH SAMPLES

Glass and finish samples are made on the specified material, reference [S-01] and [S-02], and approved in [named light] unlit, lit at full output and dimmed to [ ] per cent. The approved sample is the control sample: one copy is kept by the designer and a matching copy by the supplier. The range of variation accepted in production is [as agreed in writing].

PROTOTYPE

A full-size prototype of luminaire type [L-04] is made as drawing revision [C], weighed, and presented at [location] for approval before the production run. [Applies to the types marked P on the luminaire schedule.]

LIT MOCK-UP

A lit mock-up of luminaire type [L-04] is hung at [location] with the specified light source [make, model, [2700] K], the specified driver [make, model] and the specified dimmer or control [make, model], on a circuit loaded as in the design. The dimming range is tested in [steps] steps from [lowest level] to full output at [time of day], recorded on the approval record, and approved in writing. Any later change of light source, driver or control re-opens the mock-up.

CHANGES AFTER APPROVAL

A change to any approved item after sign-off, including light source, driver, dimmer, glass or finish batch, size, weight or fixing, is made as a new revision and signed again before the affected items are made.

TERMS USED

Lit mock-up

A fitting, or a representative one, hung in position with the specified lamp, driver and dimmer so the light itself can be judged. Makers use the word differently, so say which you mean.

Control sample

The signed sample that production is judged against. Each party keeps a matching copy.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- US DOE and PNNL: Dimming LEDs with Phase-Cut Dimmers, the Specifier's Process (PNNL-22945, Oct 2013, updated Aug 2014): section 3.1.2 read 5 Nov 2026; US phase-cut context.
- A US lighting design practice: The Role of Lighting Mock-Ups (J. Widmer, undated): backlit materials; no dimming.
- Hotel-industry trade press: sample rooms (18 Feb 2026) and bespoke lighting (10 Mar 2021): context only; no figures used.
- Make Bespoke Studio: Sampling: two sampling moments; mock-ups and prototypes for complex or high-value commissions.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/shop-drawings-and-mock-ups-for-bespoke-lighting. 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.