JOB SPECIFICATION

Waterjet Operator – Aerospace

Production & Operations | Chesterfield, UK

Role overview

The Waterjet Operator is responsible for safely and accurately setting up and operating Wardjet and Flow waterjet cutting machines to process aerospace materials in accordance with approved work instructions, customer requirements and company quality procedures. The role supports on-time delivery, material utilisation, process consistency and full product traceability.

Key responsibilities

Machine operation & process control

- Operate Wardjet and Flow waterjet systems in line with authorised training, approved work instructions (WI) and standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- Review job packs, drawings, nesting/program information, material specifications and revision status before starting work, clarify discrepancies before proceeding.
- Confirm the correct material, grade, thickness, batch/heat identification and quantity against the job documentation.
- Set up the machine and verify appropriate cutting parameters, abrasive/water supply, nozzle and consumable condition, fixturing and workpiece support as applicable.
- Load, align and secure material safely, using approved handling equipment and methods.
- Run first-off or required verification checks and obtain sign-off where the work instruction or quality procedure requires it.
- Monitor cutting quality and machine performance throughout the cycle, respond to alarms, interruptions and process variation in accordance with authorised procedures.
- Identify and segregate suspect or non-conforming material, stop and escalate when requirements are unclear or quality may be affected.
- Unload, identify, protect and transfer completed parts and remnant material to the designated locations.

Aerospace quality & traceability

- Maintain full material and component traceability throughout cutting, part separation, movement and handover.
- Complete internal paperwork, inspection records, machine logs, material usage, quantity reporting and system transactions accurately and in real time.
- Protect parts from damage, contamination, mix-up and loss of identification; use specified handling, storage and packaging methods.
- Follow drawing tolerances, customer-specific requirements, approved processes and applicable internal quality procedures.
- Support inspection, first-off approval, non-conformance investigations, corrective actions and audit activity as requested.

Safety, housekeeping & equipment care

- Complete pre-use machines, lifting equipment and ancillary checks as required, report defects and remove unsafe equipment from service in line with site procedures.
- Follow all Health and Safety policies and procedures.
- Use required PPE correctly and consistently, and follow safe systems of work for machine access, maintenance and cleaning.
- Only undertake maintenance, adjustments or interventions for which trained and authorised.
- Maintain a clean, organised work area and manage abrasive, swarf, waste and consumables in accordance with site rules.
- Report incidents, near misses, hazards, quality concerns, downtime and improvement opportunities promptly.

Production & teamwork

- Work to the production plan and agreed priorities while maintaining quality and safe working practices.
- Record downtime and reasons accurately, escalating recurring faults, delays or capacity constraints.
- Support continuous improvement in productivity, material yield, cycle time, quality and waste reduction.
- Communicate job status, risks, shortages and handover information to the Waterjet Supervisors and Management.
- Maintain role-related training and competency records and develop flexibility across Wardjet and Flow equipment as business needs allow.

Person specification

Essential

- Experience in a manufacturing, machining, waterjet, CNC or similar controlled production environment, or demonstrable aptitude with relevant training.
- Strong attention to detail and ability to follow technical instructions, job packs and documented procedures.
- Commitment to safety, quality, traceability and accurate record keeping.
- Reliable, organised and able to manage priorities within a production team.
- Clear communication skills and willingness to raise concerns and ask for clarification.
- Be flexible to support other areas and duties within the department as business needs require and develop skills across warehouse activities.
- Follow company policies and procedures, including shift timekeeping, break arrangements, smoking rules and phone-use requirements.
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Desirable

- Previous experience operating Waterjet/laser cutting machines
- Experience processing aerospace metals such as aluminum, titanium, alloys or stainless steel.
- Understanding engineering drawings, tolerances, programs, nesting and cutting parameters.
- Experience with aerospace quality systems for example material identification and traceability standards.
- Forklift truck or overhead lifting equipment training/licence where relevant to site duties.

Training can be provided for suitable candidates where the required competency is not already held.

Key working relationships

Internal: Production Team, Team Leaders, Supervisors, Production Management, Quality, Planning, and Maintenance.

External: Customers, suppliers or auditors only where required and authorised.

Role details

- Location: Markham Ln, Duckmanton, Chesterfield S44 5HS
- Department: Production – Waterjet
- Reports to: Waterjet Supervisor and Production Manager
- Equipment: Wardjet and Flow waterjet cutting machines
- Working pattern: To be confirmed
- Employment type: To be confirmed

Measures of effective performance

- Work completed right first time and in accordance with job/customer requirements.
- Accurate documentation and maintained material/part traceability.
- Safe working practices and completion of required checks and training.
- Production plan adherence and accurate downtime reporting.
- Effective care of equipment, materials and consumables, with constructive improvement input.

Additional information

This specification outlines the main duties and requirements of the post and is not exhaustive. Reasonable additional duties may be required to support the efficient operation of the wider business, subject to appropriate training, competency and safety controls.

Ready to apply? Drop your CV and details on email to s.collins@gouldalloys.co.uk