

BUYER GUIDE: REVIEWING AN EN 10204 3.1 INSPECTION DOCUMENT

A practical pre-shipment checklist for steel coils, sheets, hollow sections and other order-specific steel products.

EDUCATIONAL BUYER GUIDE

This guide is not an inspection certificate and contains no product acceptance result.

What EN 10204 3.1 tells you

EN 10204 defines the inspection-document type. It does not replace the ordered product standard. The issued document should report specific inspection results for the delivered material and be validated by the manufacturer's authorized inspection representative independent of the manufacturing department.

Seven checks before accepting a document

- Supplier and manufacturer identity match the PO, invoice and approved supply route.
- Product standard, edition, grade, delivery condition and dimensions match the PO exactly.
- Heat, cast, lot, coil or bundle references connect the document to product marks and packing records.
- Actual chemical and mechanical results are reported with units; limit values alone are not batch results.
- Product-specific records are present when ordered, such as coating mass, paint-film tests, impact tests or additional NDT.
- Document date, page control and authorized validation are complete and internally consistent.
- Any third-party inspection report is separately identifiable and matches the same lot and agreed hold point.

Product-family focus

Family	Review in addition to base material records
GI	Coating designation / mass, surface treatment and dimensional tolerance.
GL	Al-Zn coating designation / mass, finish and ordered surface treatment.
PPGI	Substrate traceability, metallic coating, paint system, film thickness, color and ordered performance tests.
SHS / RHS	Section dimensions, wall tolerance, mechanical results, impact requirement when applicable, weld / surface checks and ordered additional tests.

Red flags

- A generic certificate covers several unrelated standards or grades without identifying the ordered basis.
- Heat / lot references do not match product marks, packing records or the shipment list.
- Only specification limits are shown where actual batch results should be reported.
- The file uses an ISO 9001 certificate as a substitute for product inspection results.
- Third-party logos or names appear without a matching report number and inspection scope.
- Values, units, dates, page numbers or validation details are inconsistent or visibly altered.

What to include in the PO or inspection plan

State the product standard and edition, grade, dimensions and tolerances, required tests, EN 10204 document type, traceability depth, marking and packing rules, third-party hold points, document submission timing and acceptance responsibility.

Request a document checklist for your order: info@tsingshanss.com | WhatsApp: +86 176 8661 3239 | www.tsingshanss.com/en/request-a-quote/