# Mechanical Drafter interview questions

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## What to expect

Mechanical drafter interviews usually blend technical checks with practical scenario questions. Employers want to see that you can produce accurate drawings, work with engineers and production staff, and manage revisions without letting errors slip through.

- **Technical:** Questions about CAD software, drawing standards, tolerances and how you ensure accuracy.
- **Process:** How you handle a drawing from initial sketch to issued document, including revision control.
- **Behavioural:** Past examples of working with engineers, resolving design clashes or managing feedback.
- **Scenario:** A hypothetical design change or a discrepancy found on site, and how you would respond.
- **Safety and compliance:** Awareness of WHS and Australian Standards relevant to mechanical drawings.

Typically a two-stage process: a short phone or video screen with a recruiter or hiring manager, then an in-person or online interview with a senior drafter or engineer. You may be asked to complete a practical CAD test or review a sample drawing. The interview itself usually starts with your background, moves to technical questions and scenarios, then gives you time to ask questions.

## 1. Walk me through how you prepare a set of mechanical drawings from an engineering sketch to an issued document.

**Why they ask**

This checks your process, attention to detail and understanding of document control.

**How to structure your answer**

A walk-through structure: start with receiving the sketch, clarify requirements, create the 3D model or 2D layout, check dimensions and tolerances, get feedback, then issue through the drawing register.

**Example answer**

*“I start by reviewing the sketch and any supporting specifications with the engineer to make sure I understand the function and critical dimensions. Then I build a 3D model in SolidWorks or Inventor, which helps me check fits and interferences early. From there I generate 2D drawings with appropriate views, dimensions and tolerances, using AS 1100 as a guide. I check the drawing against the original requirements, and if anything is unclear I go back to the engineer before it goes further. Once it is approved, I log it in the drawing register and issue it as a controlled document to the project team. If there are later changes, I follow the same revision process so everyone is working from the latest version.”*

## 2. Tell me about a time you found a mistake or discrepancy in a drawing before it caused a problem.

**Why they ask**

Behavioural question that probes your attention to detail and how you handle potential errors.

**How to structure your answer**

STAR: situation, task, action, result.

**Example answer**

*“On a previous project I was checking a set of fabrication drawings for a pump skid. The drawings had been marked as ready for issue, but when I cross-checked the dimensions against the 3D model I noticed the baseplate bolt holes did not line up with the mounting points on the pump. I flagged it with the project engineer and we adjusted the model and drawings before anything was sent to the fabricator. That saved a delay in manufacturing and avoided a costly rework on site. It also reinforced for me the value of a second careful check before issuing.”*

## 3. How do you handle feedback from engineers or production staff when they ask you to change a design?

**Why they ask**

Checks collaboration and how you manage revisions without taking it personally.

**How to structure your answer**

A process and behavioural hybrid: describe how you receive feedback, assess it, make changes, and communicate the update.

**Example answer**

*“I treat feedback as a normal part of the process. I ask questions to understand the reason for the change, then look at how it affects the rest of the assembly. I make the changes in the model or drawing, update any associated documents like the bill of materials, and then send it back for review. I always note what changed and why in the revision table, so the history is clear. If the change has a knock-on effect on other drawings, I flag that to the engineer so we can manage it together.”*

## 4. What CAD software are you most comfortable with, and how do you stay current with new tools?

**Why they ask**

Technical question to gauge software proficiency and willingness to learn.

**How to structure your answer**

Direct answer about software, then examples of learning, then relevance to the role.

**Example answer**

*“I am most comfortable with SolidWorks and AutoCAD, and I have also used Inventor and Creo on different projects. I stay current by following software updates, practising new features on my own time, and asking colleagues who use tools I am less familiar with. For example, when my last workplace moved to a new PDM system, I completed the online training and set up a test project to learn the check-in and revision process before using it on live jobs. I am happy to learn whatever software your team uses.”*

## 5. Imagine you are asked to issue a drawing urgently, but you notice a dimension does not match the specification. What do you do?

**Why they ask**

Scenario question that tests judgement under pressure and commitment to accuracy.

**How to structure your answer**

Judgement under pressure: state the priority (accuracy and safety first), describe immediate action, communication, and outcome.

**Example answer**

*“I would not issue the drawing with a known error, even under time pressure. I would stop and check the dimension against the specification and the model. If it is a genuine mismatch, I would raise it with the engineer or supervisor immediately, explain the issue, and ask for a decision. I would suggest a quick solution if I can, such as confirming the correct dimension or making a minor revision. If the project truly cannot wait, I would ask for written approval to proceed with a clear note about the discrepancy, but my first responsibility is to make sure the drawing is correct and safe to build from.”*

## 6. What do you know about Australian Standards and how they apply to mechanical drafting?

**Why they ask**

Technical and compliance question to see if you understand the regulatory context.

**How to structure your answer**

Direct explanation of relevant standards, then examples of how you apply them.

**Example answer**

*“The main standard I work with is AS 1100, which covers technical drawing practice, including line types, projection and dimensioning. I also apply standards relevant to specific materials or equipment, like AS 4100 for steel structures or AS 1210 for pressure vessels, depending on the project. I keep a copy of the relevant standards on hand and check them when I am unsure about a tolerance or a symbol. When I prepare drawings for fabrication, I make sure the notes reference the correct standard so the fabricator knows what to follow. It is about making the drawing unambiguous and compliant.”*