COMPLIANCE

Speed and Simplify APQP using Rocket TRUcentrix

Advanced Product Quality Planning (APQP) is an industry-standard phased process used to develop products with greater manufacturer and supplier collaboration, particularly in the automotive industry.
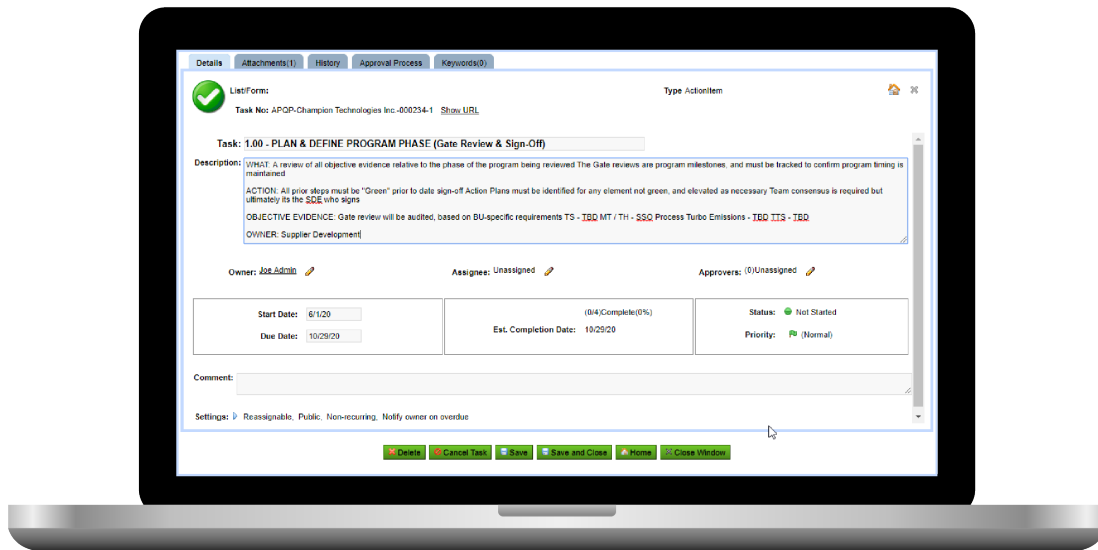

Figure 1: Detail of a task in Phase 1 of an APQP process

While APQP has become a competitive necessity for complex manufactured products, it can be challenging to deploy and manage across large supply chains. OEMs must systematically collect, review, and approve time-sensitive product-quality documents that cover 23 different topic areas across APQP's five phases—and do it across enterprise IT boundaries. Tracking documents through various APQP milestones is time consuming and error-prone, especially if you're using email, file shares, and spreadsheets. The number of people involved and constant corporate changes don't help.

Meanwhile, suppliers grapple with responding to multiple OEMs' ever-changing new product development plans, validation and reviews, and certification processes, while conforming to both OEM-specific and

international quality standards. Suppliers need to reduce lag time between tasks, navigate approval/rejection loops, and deal with email/meeting communication constraints and other limitations.

Rocket® TRUcentrix is a comprehensive B2B collaboration hub that automates key business processes between your company, suppliers and other organizations, including fully automated document management for APQP compliance. Now you can keep your partners and suppliers on schedule while ensuring the highest quality products in accordance with your APQP goals—no matter how fast things change. Get more leverage by using TRUcentrix as a single-point solution for your supplier portal and APQP system.

Product benefit list

- Connect, automate, and secure the APQP documentation process

- Speed deployment to help improve your APQP activities with all stakeholders

- Adapt easily to your company's preferred APQP approach

- Save time and money with a SaaS deployment option

- 100% web-based solution with advanced security options

With Rocket TRUcentrix, you can deploy a secure, end-to-end APQP collaboration and tracking application that spans all five APQP phases. Suppliers electronically provide status updates for all assigned APQP tasks and upload associated deliverables for OEM review and approval. OEMs electronically send APQP and Production Part Approval Process (PPAP) forms such as Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEAs) and Part Submission Warrants (PSW), reducing the number of ad-hoc-provided copies. TRUcentrix automates workflow, task assignment, notifications of activity, reporting, and status updates of ongoing APQP forms. Managers and administrators can easily see, track, and report on user activity for auditing purposes.

Figure 2: Phases and sub-tasks of APQP

Advanced quality control management and automation

Built-in quality control management provides OEMs and suppliers with a high degree of transparency and visibility into the business process while protecting individual suppliers' critical business data. An integrated APQP form within TRUcentrix clearly defines quality requirements, greatly reducing potential errors and unwanted supplier corrective-action requests.

OEMs can:

- Auto-populate highly configurable APQP/PPAP tracking forms with existing part and program information from external data sources, such as ERP and PLM, using our API or manual input

- Assign specific tasks to individual suppliers manually or by importing from defined APQP-specific templates

- Set a deadline for the completion of those tasks based on program timing

- Receive automated alerts when a supplier reaches a critical milestone, updates task progress, or starts running behind

- Approve/reject associated documents based on compliance with proper quality standards

Comprehensive automation makes assigning and tracking tasks much more efficient than with traditional content management systems.

Figure 3: Mouse-over details of a task in Phase 2 of an APQP process

Rocket TRUcentrix brings advanced collaboration, control, and security to APQP compliance across the five phases of APQP.

1. Plan and Define Program

2. Product Design and Development Verification

3. Process Design and Development Verification

4. Product and Process Validation and Production Feedback

5. Launch, Assessment and Corrective Action

Intelligent and customizable APQP form tracking

Comprehensive tracking forms power the APQP process for all parts being produced by external suppliers. The APQP Tracking Form contains information about the part, supplier and vehicle program, and includes an embedded APQP task list. The APQP task list (and any associated reference attachments) is populated from a task list template on the server. Ad-hoc tasks and subtasks may be added. The APQP tasks and subtasks encompass the five phases of APQP product development. Almost every task assigned requires a supplier to download a document template for offline editing, periodically updating their progress online and later uploading their completed document by an assigned due date. Custom roll-up reports provide up-to-date statuses on all aspects of the product launch. You can templatize and enforce your company's unique process while securely engaging suppliers, protecting your intellectual property and providing real-time status visibility. Managers and administrators can easily see, track, and report on user activity for auditing purposes.
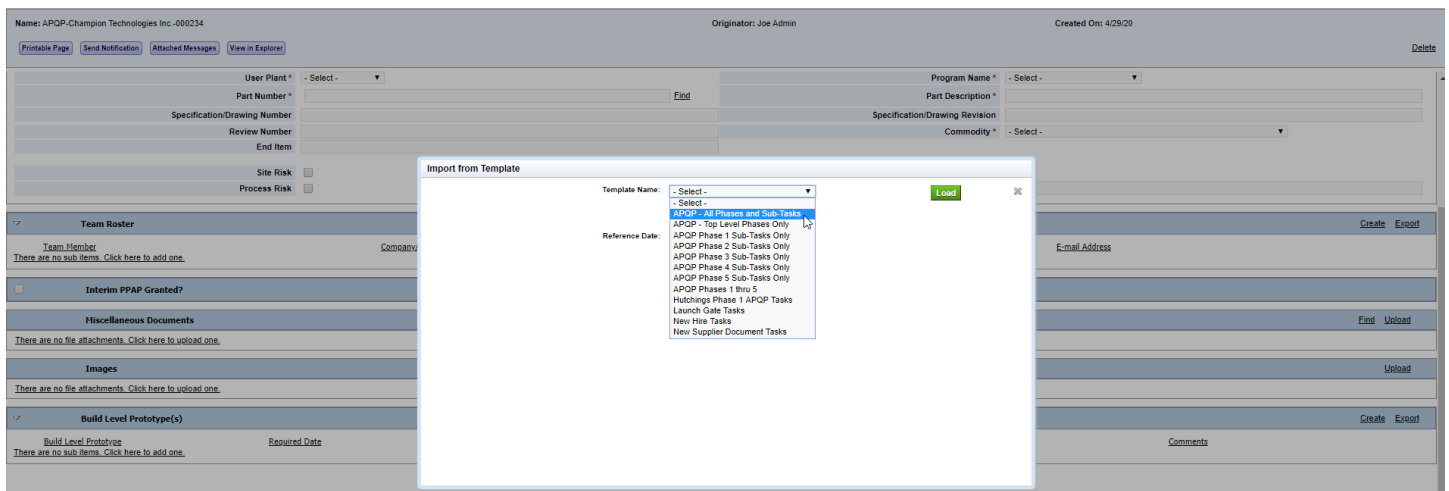

Figure 4: Integrated APQP tracking forms provide a single place to track supplier compliance for each part number. "Living" forms are secure and easily adapt (or are customizable) to your company's APQP process.

Cost-effective and secure

Rocket TRUcentrix meets all your APQP tracking needs—without dedicated IT staff, IT infrastructure, or data center resources. Our Software as a Service (SaaS) solution eliminates CAPEX costs, speeding time-to-value and peace of mind for APQP compliance. TRUcentrix is available as a SaaS solution in the Amazon Web Services GovCloud, Amazon Web Services regions, and on-premises. The U.S. Department of Defense has accepted and certified AWS GovCloud for businesses and contractors that work with the DOD and other U.S. government agencies or exchange data with government agencies.

Secure web-based access with multifactor authentication and modern encryption standards protect data at rest and in flight. With our robust permissions and visibility management, you can create virtual product teams consisting of members from multiple companies without running the risk of team members from competing companies accessing each other.

Rocket Software empowers organizations to create legendary impact in the world through innovation in legacy technologies. With deep expertise in IBM Z, IBM Power, and database and connectivity solutions, Rocket solutions power tens of thousands of global businesses, solving real problems and making real-world impact.