

Product Development: Important steps for flawless production

By: Bibhuti Anand

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Product Development is the conversion of the details (sketch) and reference of the style given by a Buyer in the form of Tech-Pack, into a Sample garment called the First Proto Sample, which under-goes several approval stages from the Buyer before the final sample called the Sealer Sample is sealed or finalised.

Costing also changes at every stage of sample approval and change incorporation.

Tech packs are sometimes provided by the Buyer or even sometimes created by the Production House according to the buyer requirements and specifications.

To get right first time in raw material planning, garment construction, style detailing etc. it is very important to carefully study the tech-pack prior to start order processing. If tech pack is reviewed with detailed checklist, sample correction can be reduced in approval stages. Garment costing and production preparation can be done more accurately.



Remember: Any PD must pass the Lab Testing & Production Feasibility.

Following check lists are helpful for Product Development or review of a sample:

- ✓ Check fabric details, trims, accessories, styling and garment construction.
- ✓ Feasibility study and *Yield per Yard (YY)* is calculated on the base size for knowing consumption of fabric in making one garment.
- ✓ Costing is calculated on the base size (mostly with 3 piece marker for better efficiency)
- ✓ Base size is provided by buyer.
- ✓ Check for other value adding process requirements, like printing or embroidery is needed or not. Check for block cutting requirement.
- ✓ Go through the specs sheets and sample (in case provided by the Buyer) for possible query on points of measurement.
- ✓ Study of BOM (Bill of Material) is very important.
- ✓ Identify Washing types and durations required.
- ✓ Specification of sewing threads (thickness and variation) required.
- ✓ Study seam types, stitch classes and accordingly Costing is done.
(SAM is also a very important element in costing)

- ✓ Identify the required Finishing Processes as per Buyer's requirement.

Product Development Terminology:

❖ Tech-Pack comprises of:

Tech Pack Design, Measurement Chart, Tech Pack Details, Graded Specification Sheet, Design Specification Sheets, Trims/ Accessories Details, Technical Details, Color-ways Detail, Point of Measurement (POM) Details.

Following information is needed to create a Tech-Pack:

- Photograph of the sample.
- If not a sample, a detailed sketch of the garment.
- Fabric details (body and trim).
- Details of the trims and accessories.
- Patch label, main label and all other size label details.
- Measurement details
- Color details for each color combination (color pantones are sent).
- Season information.
- Details of the size labels and wash care labels.
- Details of graphics or embroidery in original size and other details.

❖ Color books

They are referred for exact color codes and avoid any confusion. These books are globally followed with standardized color codes. These are also called Color chip or Pantone. Some of these books are Scotdic, CSI (Color Solutions International), TCX (Textile Clothing), TPX (Textile Printing) and cost up to Rs. 80,000 to 90,000. Color books are also known as Pantone Books.

❖ Trims and accessories:

Trims and accessories are those materials that are used in a garment other than main fabric (shell fabric). Even lining materials (fabrics) fall under trims and accessories. Accessories: Item that enhances the aesthetic appeal or function of a garment including belt, scarves or other objects.

❖ Study of Fusing Shrinkage:

- Fuse the fabric & specified interlining at specified temperature, pressure & time.
- Check for fusing shrinkage “as allowance for fusing”.
- Check for shade variation if any due to fusing. If you observe any shade variation, report to the Cutting In-Charge and initiate corrective action.

- Check the fusing for defects like – peel off, bubbles etc. Inform deviations/defects if any to the concerned for necessary corrective action.
- QA team has to specify area of fusing, and temperature and pressure to be set for fusing.

❖ **Thread Advisory:**

This test is performed to get the best possible combination of thread with the fabrics to be used.

❖ **Embroidery Testing:**

The type of fabric, thread and embroidery is done and checked for any puckering or other problems.

Case Study: Technical Call-out for Buyer



Full Garment



Decorative Ribbon



Laces

A basic garment which has-

- ✓ **Main Fabric:** Viscose
- ✓ **Decorative Ribbon:** Polyester
- ✓ **Laces:** Dyed Floral Nylon Lace

Problem:

Buyer wants same *color shade matching* in **Main Fabric, Laces & Decorative Ribbon**



Call-out given to buyer

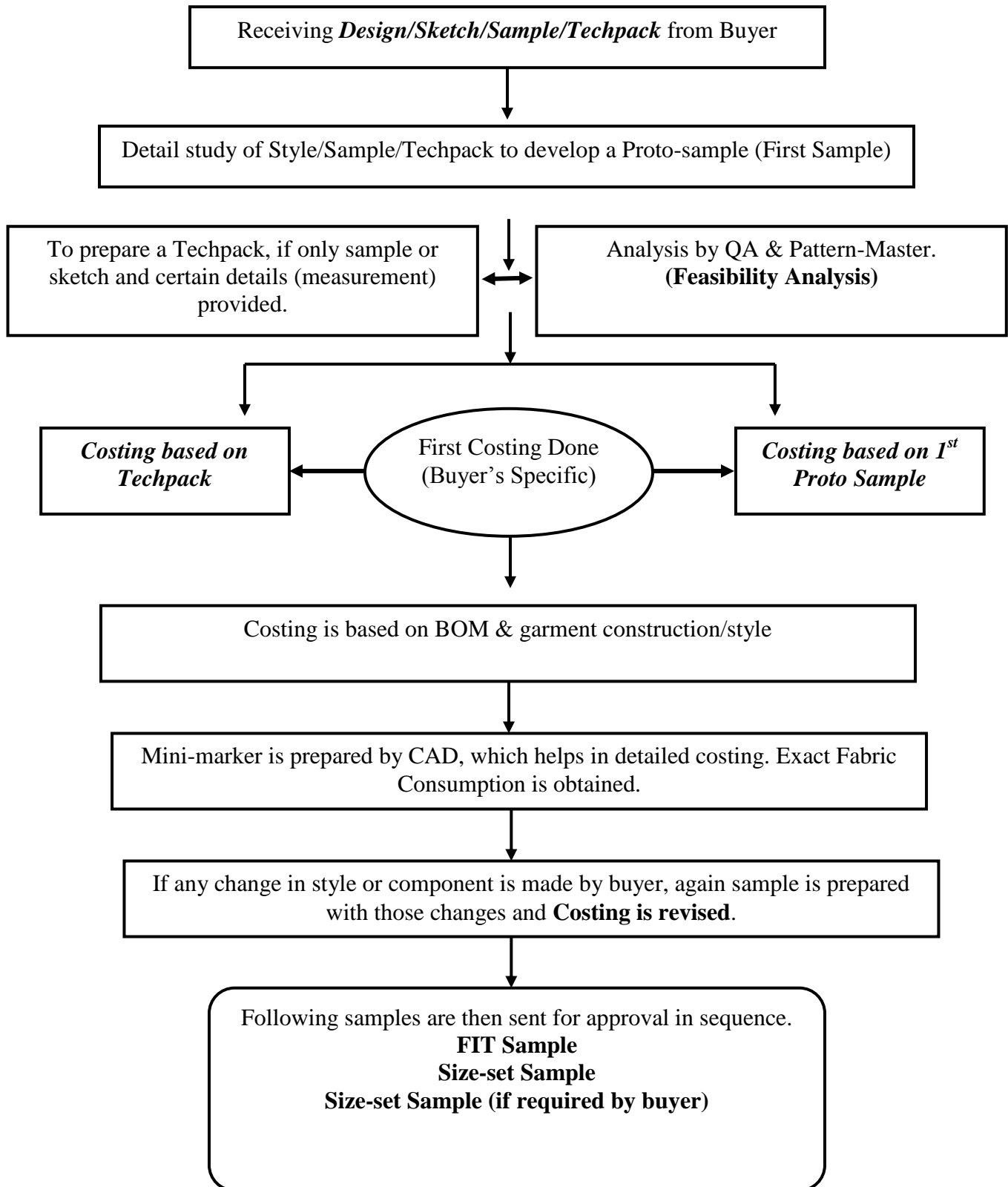
- Exact shade matching is not technically possible in all the three things, because of the nature of the fabric and its properties.
- Main fabric is viscous & decorative ribbon is of Polyester and another part is Lace. So exact color shade cannot come.

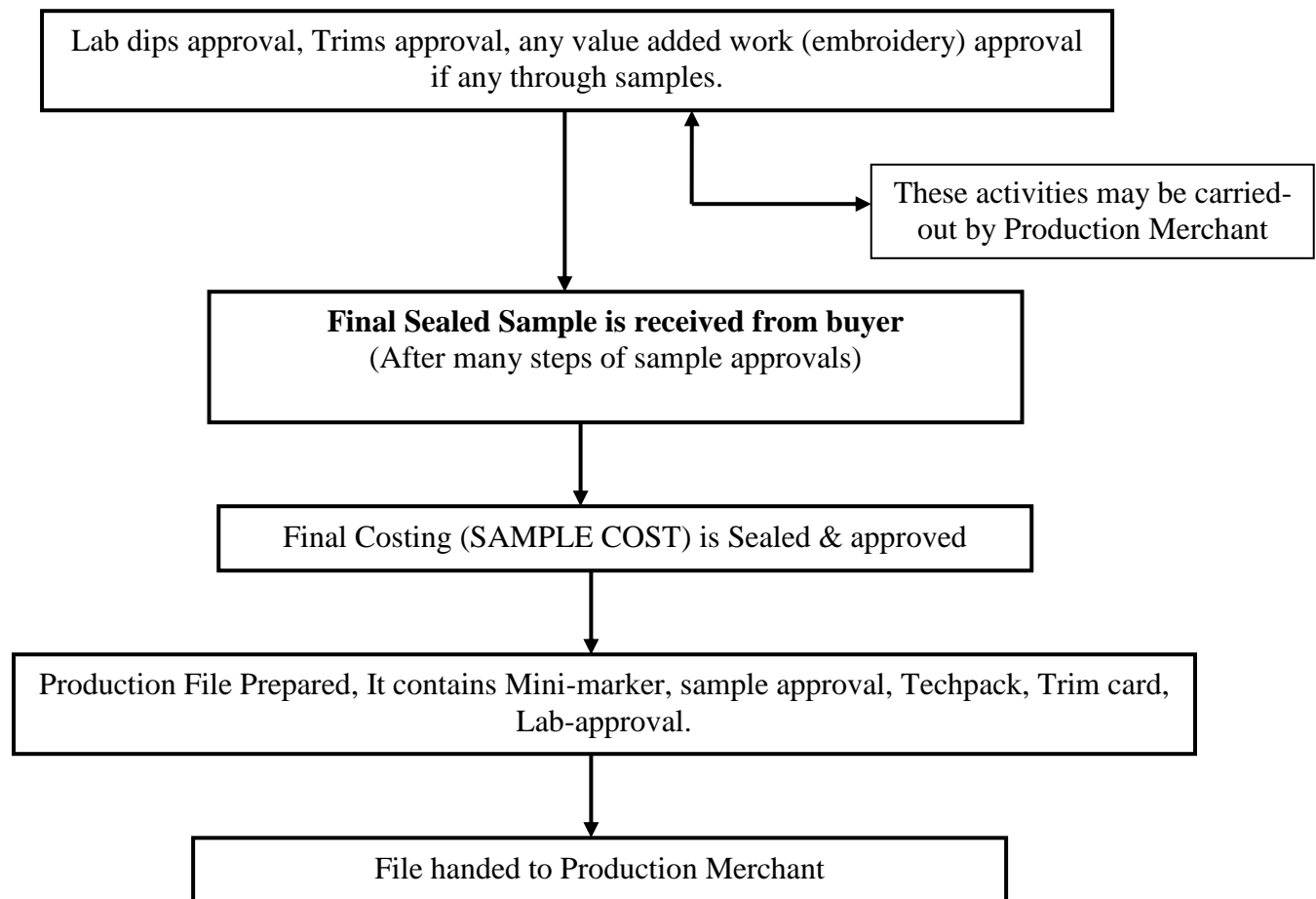
Options:

- Change the fabric of decorative ribbon.

Remember... Every style is a challenge, and it requires
Good Analytical skill... So, analyze the style & situation carefully.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of Product Development:





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