

# Smooth Technical Validation Paves the Way for New Auto Part Material

Saved Money and Mitigated Risk of Production Delay



A Southeastern company producing a steering-column component needed help overcoming production challenges when a critical material in its supply chain was discontinued. Finding a suitable nylon resin replacement without disrupting production would require OEM approval of the new grade, an automotive industry requirement that can prove complicated and costly, especially for smaller manufacturers with limited staff resources. With numerous molders and teams involved in the production, the manufacturer needed a partner to oversee all players to ensure a timely transition and successful OEM validation.

Nexeo Plastics knew the key to solving this challenge lay in selecting not just an acceptable new material, but one with proven, well-documented technical proficiencies that could move through OEM validation without incident. To smooth the way, our automotive industry experts reached out to engineers at a leading resin supplier who gathered documentation to demonstrate the new resin's lab-tested effectiveness.

Nexeo Plastics and the resin supplier then worked together to provide a mold flow analysis to assist with the new tooling design, at no additional cost to the customer. Lastly, as an extra step, a Nexeo Plastics' technical expert and supplier representative visited the production site to assist during the validation on the floor, verified repeatability of the tooling and signed off on the new grade.

For this manufacturer, accomplishing the process validation and specification change required for the new nylon resin without taxing the facility's manpower was a game changer. Using the validated material, production continued without disruption and without sacrificing quality or efficiency, giving the component maker a viable, approved specification without incurring costs or manpower involved to support the OEM validation. The resin supplier's mold flow analysis alone was valued at \$3,000.

Discover how a partnership with Nexeo Plastics can contribute to your bottom line and help achieve manufacturing efficiencies.

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## AT-A-GLANCE

### Recorded Benefits

- Obtained OEM approval and validation of new nylon resin without extra time and costs
- Saved \$3,000 and manpower with gratis supplier-provided mold flow analysis
- Mitigated risks of quality issues and line stoppages

### Challenge

A small manufacturer needed help obtaining OEM approval for a new nylon resin grade required to make a steering-column component.

### Solution

Working with a leading resin supplier, Nexeo Plastics helped identify a suitable replacement, gathered technical documentation and oversaw onsite validation and testing to facilitate OEM approval.

### Result

The small manufacturer saved critical time, money and hassle of handling a complicated new OEM validation, facilitating a smooth and incident-free material change.