



Impact by Design: Boosting Productivity Through Collaboration

Real Stories. Real Impact. Real results.

Fast Facts | Manufacturer

Need:

Boost propane tank production during pandemic-driven demand

Challenge:

Older one-step draw press prone to jams from trim ring detachment

Our Response:

- Higher tensile strength material
- Rougher finish for improved lubricity

Impact:

- Reduced downtime
- Improved productivity
- Preferred supplier status

Challenge

A major manufacturer of press-formed steel components faced rising demand for one of its most popular consumer products. However, its production line relied on older forming equipment that frequently jammed when trim rings failed to detach properly — creating costly downtime and limiting output. The company needed to increase productivity quickly to meet growing market demand.

Choice

U. S. Steel's Customer Quality Engineering team partnered directly with the manufacturer's plant operators and quality team to identify root causes and implement a fix. After extensive analysis, we determined that the solution required:

- A higher tensile strength material to allow trim rings to detach more easily.
- A rougher surface finish to improve lubricity during forming and reduce sticking.

Our Gary Works facility produced a series of trial orders incorporating these modifications, each tested under full production conditions to validate performance.

Outcome

The results were clear: the revised material specification improved press reliability, reduced downtime, and enhanced overall product consistency. Based on the successful trials and statistical data, the manufacturer updated its internal standards to align with the new specification.

Today, operators report that U. S. Steel's material runs more smoothly and reliably than competing sources — proof that collaboration, technical insight, and partnership can create measurable Impact by Design.

Ready to see what's possible? Talk with your U. S. Steel representative to see how our SteelWorks360SM Team can help turn your challenge into results.