

EN 10204 Type 3.2 Inspection Certificate

**Complete Technical Guide for Material
Traceability, Independent Inspection &**

***A Practical Guide for Manufacturers, Suppliers,
Purchasers & Engineering Professionals***



What Is EN 10204?

EN 10204 defines different types of inspection documents supplied to purchasers for metallic products according to the requirements of the order and applicable product specifications. It is used together with the relevant product specification, which establishes the technical delivery requirements.

Typical products can include:

- Steel plates
- Sheets
- Bars
- Pipes and tubes
- Forgings
- Castings
- Structural steel products
- Stainless steel products
- Components manufactured from metallic materials

The Four Main Inspection Document Types

EN 10204:2004 organizes Types 2.1 and 2.2 under non-specific inspection and Types 3.1 and 3.2 under specific inspection.

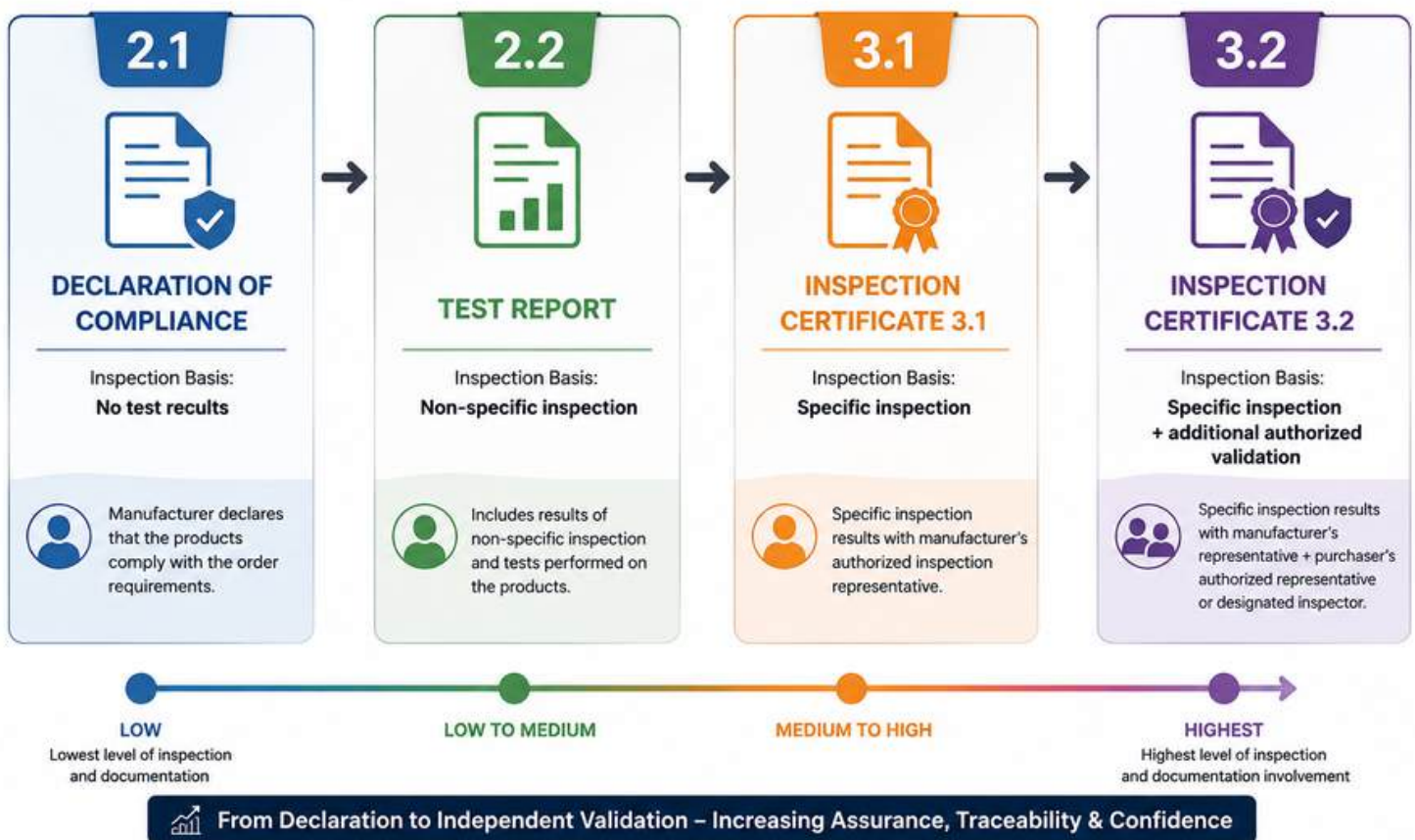
Type	Document	Inspection Basis
2.1	 Declaration of Compliance	 No test results
2.2	 Test Report	 Non-specific inspection
3.1	 Inspection Certificate 3.1	 Specific inspection
3.2	 Inspection Certificate 3.2	 Specific inspection + additional authorized validation

EN 10204 does not define the technical acceptance criteria for every material.

The applicable product standard, purchase order, specification, regulation or contractual requirement determines the technical requirements and inspections to be performed.

EN 10204 – INSPECTION DOCUMENT TYPES

Increasing level of inspection and documentation involvement



What Is an EN 10204 Type 3.2 Inspection Certificate?

An EN 10204 Type 3.2 inspection certificate is an inspection document in which the manufacturer declares that the supplied products comply with the order requirements and provides results from specific inspection.

The document is prepared/validated by:

Manufacturer's authorized inspection representative

+

Purchaser's authorized inspection representative OR inspector designated by applicable official regulations

The manufacturer's inspection representative must be independent of the manufacturing department.

What makes Type 3.2 different?

The key distinction is additional inspection validation.

Type 3.1

Manufacturer's authorized inspection representative

↓

Independent of manufacturing department

↓

Specific inspection results

Type 3.2

Manufacturer's authorized inspection representative

↓

Independent of manufacturing department

↓

+

Purchaser's authorized representative / designated inspector

↓

Specific inspection results + additional validation

Important clarification

Do not market Type 3.2 simply as "better material."

Type 3.2 provides an additional level of inspection involvement and validation where required by the order, product specification, contract or applicable requirements.

EN 10204 3.1 vs 3.2: What Is the Difference?

This is one of the highest-value sections for search intent because buyers frequently search:
"EN 10204 3.1 vs 3.2"

EN 10204 – TYPE 3.1 VS TYPE 3.2		
Key Differences in Inspection Documents		
FEATURE	TYPE 3.1	TYPE 3.2
	 Inspection Certificate 3.1	 Inspection Certificate 3.2
 Compliance statement		
 Specific inspection results		
 Manufacturer's authorized inspection representative		
 Representative independent of manufacturing department		
 Additional purchaser/regulatory inspector involvement	—	
 Additional validation	—	
 Typical use	 Standard contractual requirements	 Additional independent verification requirements

The technical distinction between Type 3.1 and Type 3.2 is primarily who validates the inspection document, rather than simply the quantity of test data included.

Which one should you choose?

Do not automatically select Type 3.2.

The required document type should be determined by:

- Purchase order
- Product specification
- Project specification
- Applicable regulation
- Contractual requirements
- Customer requirements
- Inspection and Test Plan (ITP)
- Industry-specific requirements

When Is an EN 10204 Type 3.2 Certificate Required?

A Type 3.2 inspection certificate may be requested when the purchaser, project specification, applicable product standard, contract or regulatory requirements require additional independent verification of specific inspection results.

Common application areas

- **Pressure Equipment**

Material traceability and documented inspection can be important for pressure-containing equipment and associated components.

- **Oil & Gas**

Material verification can support procurement, inspection and traceability requirements for critical equipment.

- **Power Generation**

Material documentation may be required for components exposed to demanding service conditions.

- **Shipbuilding & Marine**

Traceable material documentation can form part of project quality documentation.

- **Structural & Heavy Engineering**

Material certificates can support conformity verification for critical steel products and components.

- **Manufacturing & Fabrication**

Purchasers may specify Type 3.2 documentation for particular materials or project-critical components.

EN 10204 Type 3.2 certification is not automatically mandatory for every metallic product. Whether Type 3.2 is required depends on the applicable purchase order, product specification, project requirements, contractual conditions or regulatory requirements.



Specific Inspection Under EN 10204 Type 3.2

What does "specific inspection" mean?

Specific inspection relates to inspection and testing performed before delivery on the products being supplied, or on applicable test units of which the supplied products form part, according to the product specification, official regulations, applicable technical rules and/or the order. Depending on the applicable requirements, inspection may involve:

- Chemical composition
- Verification against the specified material requirements.
- Mechanical properties

Examples can include:

- Tensile testing
- Yield strength
- Elongation
- Impact testing

Dimensional inspection

Verification of dimensions and tolerances.

Visual inspection

Checking product condition and visible conformity.

NDT

Where required by the applicable specification/order, methods may include:

- Ultrasonic Testing – UT
- Radiographic Testing – RT
- Magnetic Particle Testing – MT
- Dye Penetrant Testing – PT

Important note

Do not state that all of these tests are mandatory for every Type 3.2 certificate.

Instead:

The applicable product specification, order, ITP, contract or regulatory requirement determines which inspections and tests are required.



EN 10204 Type 3.2 Certificate: Key Information & Traceability

A Type 3.2 document should connect the supplied material to the applicable order requirements and specific inspection evidence.

Typical information may include

Product identification

- Manufacturer
- Product description
- Material designation/grade
- Product form
- Dimensions
- Quantity

Traceability information

- Heat number / cast number
- Batch or lot identification where applicable
- Product identification marks
- Traceability references
- Technical information
- Applicable product standard
- Purchase order

Delivery condition

- Heat-treatment information where applicable
- Chemical analysis
- Mechanical test results
- Other applicable inspection results
- NDT results where required by the applicable specification/order

Validation

- Manufacturer's authorized inspection representative
- Purchaser's authorized inspection representative or designated inspector
- Names/positions or required identification
- Date/document references as applicable

The exact information should be determined from the applicable product standard and order requirements rather than assuming every Type 3.2 certificate has an identical format. EN 10204 itself works together with the applicable product specification.



EN 10204 Type 3.2 Inspection Process

Step 1 – Review Requirements

Review:

Purchase order

Product standard

Technical specification

Inspection & Test Plan

Contract requirements

Applicable regulatory requirements

↓

Step 2 – Identify Products

Confirm:

Material grade

Heat/cast number

Dimensions

Quantity

Product identification

↓

Step 3 – Review Inspection & Testing

Verify applicable:

Chemical results

Mechanical results

Dimensional results

NDT results

Heat-treatment records

Other specified inspections

↓

Step 4 – Verify Traceability

Connect test results and records to the supplied material.



Step 5 – Independent Inspection

Additional authorized inspection involvement is completed according to the applicable Type 3.2 requirements.



Step 6 – Document Review

Check conformity against the purchase order and applicable requirements.



Step 7 – Validation

Required responsible inspection representatives validate the inspection document.



Step 8 – Final Documentation

Certificate/report package is reviewed and released.

First Welding Certification Pvt Ltd service process

**Initial Inquiry → Commercial Offer → Order Confirmation →
Registration → Stage-1/Final Audit where applicable → Report
Preparation, Review, Approval & Release.**

EN 10204 Type 3.2 Inspection Checklist

Use this checklist before accepting or submitting Type 3.2 documentation.

A. Order Requirements

- ☐ Purchase order reviewed
- ☐ Applicable product specification identified
- ☐ Required inspection document type confirmed
- ☐ Customer/project requirements reviewed
- ☐ ITP requirements reviewed where applicable

B. Material Identification

- ☐ Manufacturer identified
- ☐ Material grade confirmed
- ☐ Product form confirmed
- ☐ Dimensions verified
- ☐ Quantity verified
- ☐ Heat/cast number identified

C. Inspection & Testing

- ☐ Chemical results reviewed
- ☐ Mechanical test results reviewed
- ☐ Dimensional inspection reviewed
- ☐ Heat treatment records reviewed where applicable
- ☐ NDT results reviewed where required
- ☐ All results meet applicable requirements

D. Traceability

- ☐ Heat number matches material
- ☐ Test results trace back to material
- ☐ Supporting documents available
- ☐ Product markings verified
- ☐ Certificate references correct order/product

E. Validation

- ☐ Manufacturer's authorized inspection representative identified
- ☐ Independence from manufacturing department confirmed
- ☐ Purchaser's authorized representative/designated inspector identified where applicable
- ☐ Required validation completed

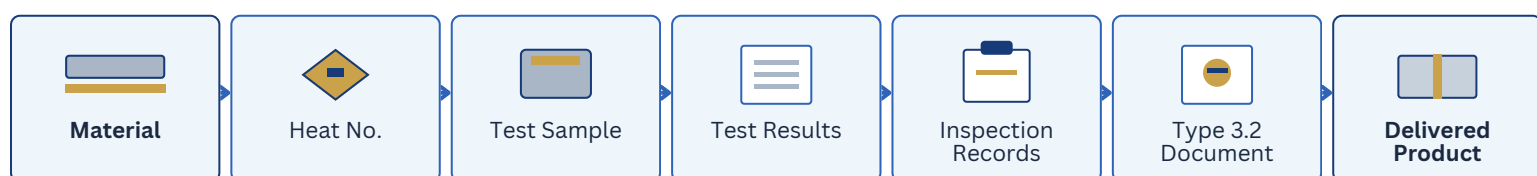
Final acceptance question

Can every important test result on the Type 3.2 documentation be connected to the correct supplied material and applicable order requirement?

If not, investigate before accepting the documentation.



TRACEABILITY CHAIN



Common EN 10204 Type 3.2 Mistakes

1. Treating Type 3.2 as a generic "higher quality" certificate
Type 3.2 is an inspection-document category with additional validation; it does not automatically mean the material is superior to material supplied under Type 3.1.

2. Ignoring the purchase order

The required inspection document should be established from the applicable order/specification/requirements.

3. Weak material traceability

A certificate without reliable connection to the supplied material creates a documentation problem.

4. Assuming every certificate contains identical tests

The applicable product specification and order determine the required inspection and test scope.

5. Confusing Type 3.1 and Type 3.2

The additional authorized inspection involvement is the key distinction.

6. Treating the certificate as a substitute for the product standard

EN 10204 defines inspection-document types; it does not replace the technical requirements of the product specification.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is EN 10204 Type 3.2 mandatory?

Not for every metallic product. It applies where required by the applicable order, specification, contract, regulation or other requirements.

What is the difference between EN 10204 3.1 and 3.2?

Type 3.1 is validated by the manufacturer's authorized inspection representative independent of manufacturing. Type 3.2 additionally involves the purchaser's authorized inspection representative or an inspector designated by official regulations.

Who signs a Type 3.2 certificate?

The document is prepared/validated by the manufacturer's authorized inspection representative and either the purchaser's authorized inspection representative or the inspector designated by official regulations.

Is Type 3.2 the same as third-party inspection?

Not necessarily. The additional validating party may be the purchaser's authorized inspection representative or an inspector designated by applicable official regulations. The precise arrangement depends on the applicable requirements.

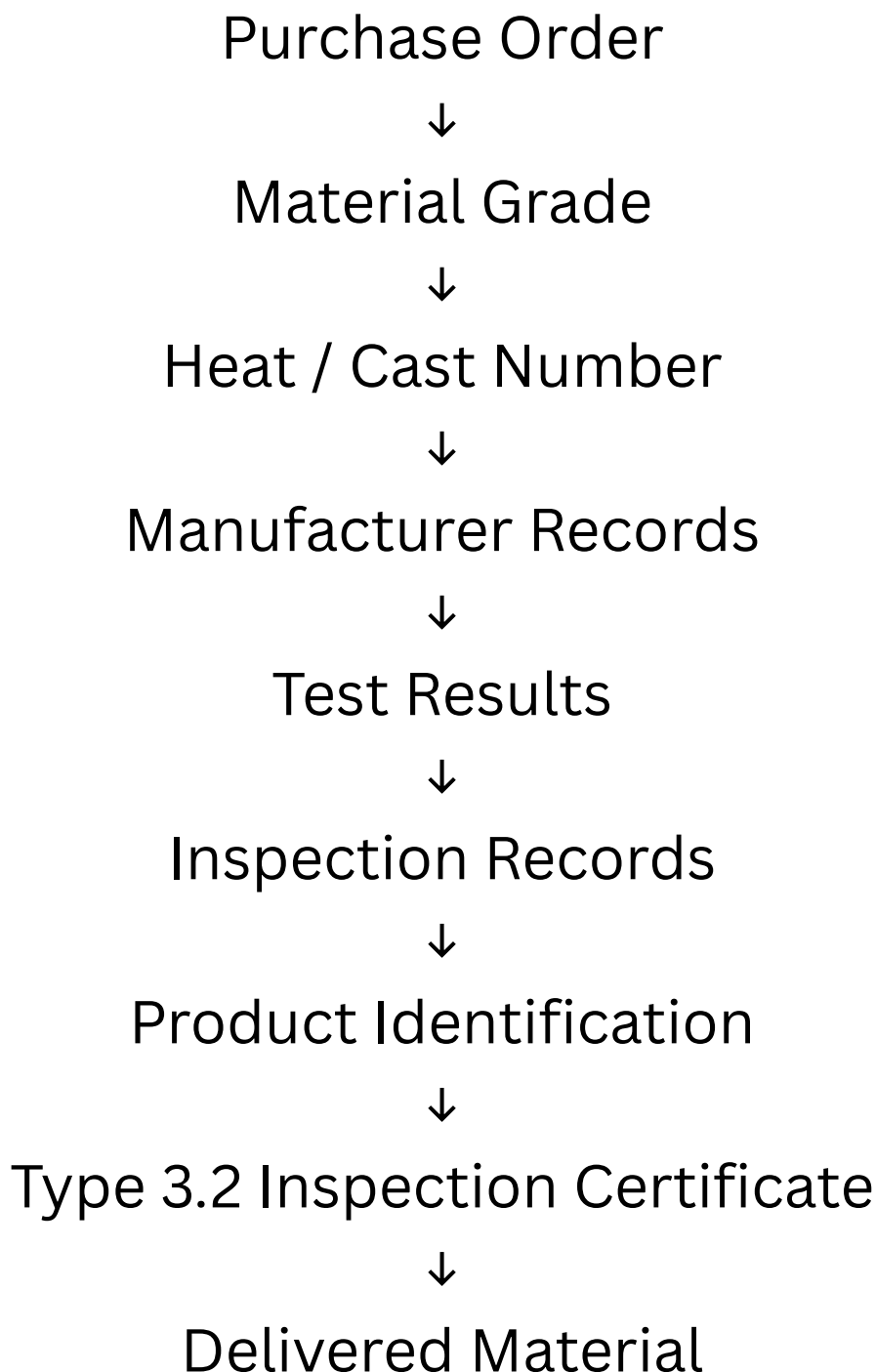
Does Type 3.2 apply only to steel?

EN 10204 primarily addresses metallic products, including plates, sheets, bars, forgings and castings, and may also be applied to other products where appropriate.

Material Traceability: The Backbone of Type 3.2 Documentation

A Type 3.2 inspection document is meaningful only when the inspection evidence can be connected to the actual supplied product.

Traceability should connect:



Why traceability matters

Traceability helps establish a documented relationship between:

The material supplied

The inspection results

The applicable technical requirements

The manufacturer documentation

The inspection certificate

EN 10204 also allows relevant specific inspection results from primary or incoming products to be transferred when appropriate traceability procedures are maintained and supporting inspection documentation is available.

Common traceability failures

- ✗ Missing heat number
- ✗ Certificate does not match product marking
- ✗ Incorrect material grade
- ✗ Quantity mismatch
- ✗ Unclear test-unit relationship
- ✗ Missing supporting inspection documentation
- ✗ Inconsistent purchase-order references

TRACEABILITY DETECTIVE

ONE HEAT NUMBER • ONE DOCUMENTED CHAIN



Need EN 10204 Type 3.2 Inspection Support?

Strengthen Material Traceability. Verify Inspection. Support Compliance.

For projects where material conformity, traceability and independent inspection are important, the correct inspection documentation can become a critical part of the quality dossier. First Welding Certification Pvt Ltd can support organizations with:

- ✓ EN 10204 Type 3.2 inspection requirements
- ✓ Material identification & traceability review
- ✓ Inspection and test documentation review
- ✓ Specific inspection verification
- ✓ Independent inspection coordination
- ✓ Technical documentation review
- ✓ Type 3.2 inspection certificate support

Who can benefit?

Manufacturers | Steel Suppliers | Fabricators | EPC Contractors | Engineering Companies | Purchasers | Quality Managers | Project Managers | Inspection Agencies

Start Your EN 10204 Type 3.2 Journey

Have a project requiring EN 10204 Type 3.2?

Contact our certification and inspection experts to discuss your material, project and inspection requirements.

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[REQUEST EN 10204 TYPE 3.2 INSPECTION](#)