

AQL Inspection Checklist

A working checklist for inspecting a denim order against an agreed AQL level — so “passed inspection” means the same thing to the brand and the production floor.

Who this is for

Brands setting up quality acceptance for a first order, and scaling brands standardizing how every order is judged. AQL defines how many defects are acceptable in a sample drawn from the order; this checklist organizes what to check and how to record it.

How to use this template

- Agree the AQL level and what counts as a critical / major / minor defect before inspection starts.
- Inspect a random sample sized to the order quantity — not a hand-picked set.
- Record actual counts against the accept / reject limits, not just a pass/fail opinion.
- Keep this record with the order file so reorders can be judged against the same standard.

1 Inspection Setup

Lock the standard before counting anything.

Field	Detail
Style name & number	
Order quantity	
Agreed AQL level (e.g. 2.5)	
Sample size inspected	
Accept / reject limit (major)	
Accept / reject limit (minor)	
Inspection stage (inline / final / pre-ship)	
Date / inspector	

Critical / major / minor — agree this first

The same flaw can be a reject or an accept depending on classification. Define the three categories with examples up front, or inspection results will be argued about later.

2 Measurement Check

Compare measured garments against the approved spec and tolerance.

Point of measure	Spec	Tol ±	Measured	Pass / fail
Waist				
Hip				
Front rise				
Inseam				
Leg opening				
Thigh				

3 Visual & Workmanship Defects

Tick what was checked; record counts of each defect found in the sample.

- Shade within agreed band (no off-shade units)
- No uneven wash / streaking / unintended marks
- Stitching: no skipped, broken, or loose stitches
- Seams: no puckering, open seams, or raw edges
- Bartacks present and correctly placed
- Hardware: rivets/buttons/zipper secure and aligned
- Labels correct, legible, and correctly positioned
- Pockets aligned and symmetrical
- No stains, holes (unintended), or contamination
- Trims match approved spec

4 Defect Tally

Count defects found in the inspected sample, by classification.

Defect description	Critical	Major	Minor

Result	Major found	Minor found	Limit	Accept / reject
Totals				

5 Disposition & Sign-off

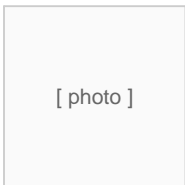
Record the decision and what happens to a rejected lot.

Field	Detail
Decision (accept / reject / conditional)	
Action if rejected (rework / re-inspect / hold)	
Re-inspection date (if any)	
Inspector signature	
Brand approval	

About the source of this template

This template reflects how SkyKingdom approaches denim in real production — as an external denim product team for creator-led, DTC, and scaling brands. It covers fabric development, wash recipe documentation, sampling, AQL-supervised production, and reorder continuity. It is shared as a working tool, not as theoretical advice.

- 20 years of denim production in Xintang, Guangzhou
- Recognized as Best Quality Supplier — two consecutive years — by a top-3 Amazon US women's apparel seller covering 190+ countries
- Network of partner factories, many founded by former SkyKingdom team members
- Covered by Xinhua News Agency and China News Service



Founder, SkyKingdom

Independent denim product development consultant

Have a denim project to review? Send your design idea, reference images, or production question and we will look at what kind of support makes sense.

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