

Understanding SPI Mold Classifications

Class 105

- Soft Aluminum, Epoxy, Cast Metals, Alloys
- Prototype tooling
- Lowest cost
- Not suitable for all materials or designs.
- *Fragile tooling, very limited tooling life*
- **Life 1 to 500 shots**

Class 104

- Aluminum, Alloys, Mild Steel
- Prototype or low volume tooling
- Low cost
- *Wears faster resulting in flash, not suitable for all materials, limited tooling life, prone to hot spots*
- **Life 10K-100K shots**

Class 103

- Soft Steel, Pre-Hardened Steel
- Prototype thru medium production
- Medium cost
- Machinable for design mods
- *Process friendly, easy to maintain, holds tolerances, long tooling life, no hot spots*
- **Life to 500K shots**

Class 102-101

- Hardened Steel
- High production tooling, fast cycle times
- Highest cost
- *Permanent tooling best suited to high production and multi-cavity tooling. Best for abrasive materials. Holds tolerances.*
- **Life in Millions**