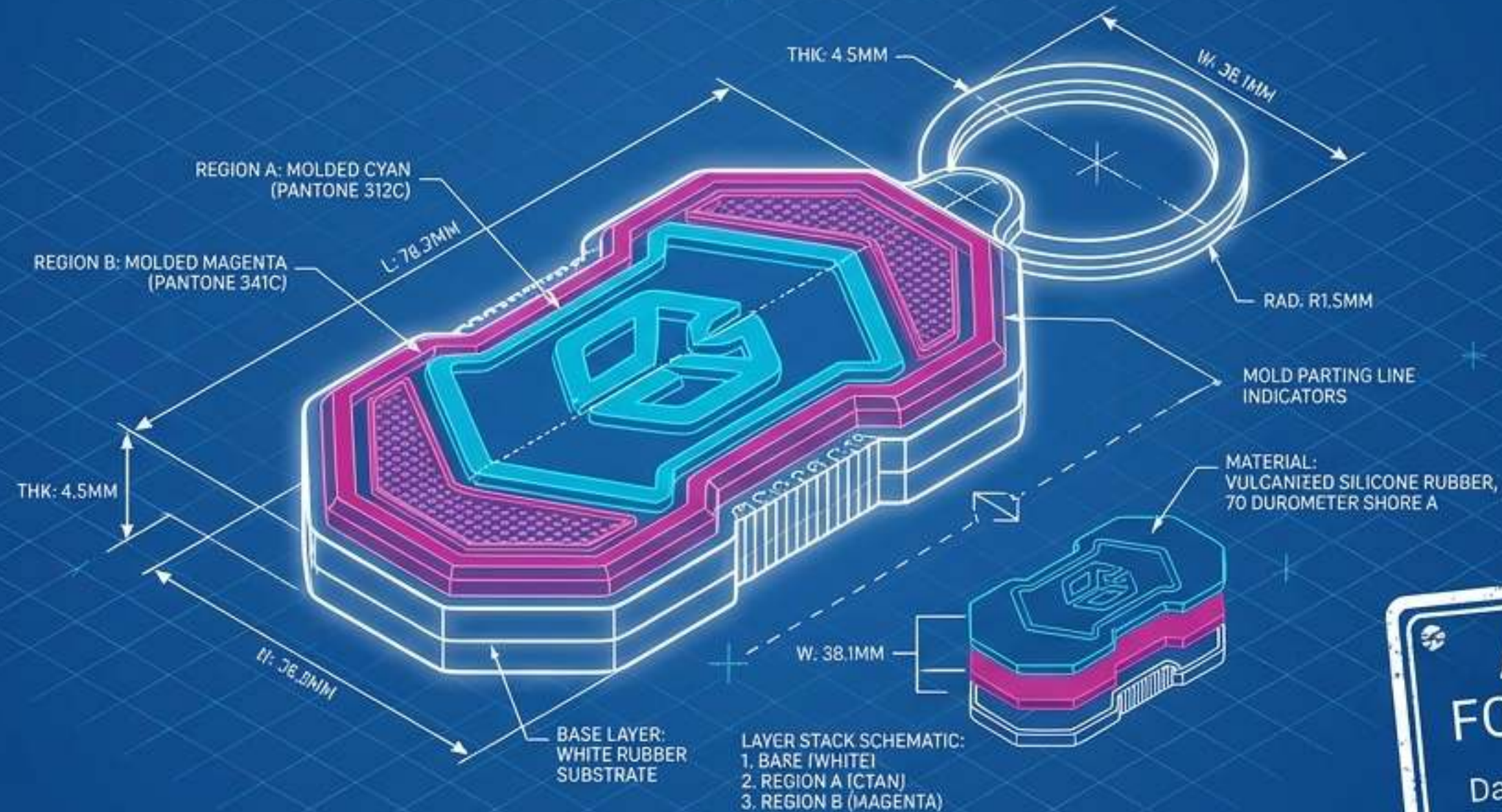


SOURCING CUSTOM RUBBER KEYCHAINS

THE MANUFACTURER'S TECH PACK: A BUYER'S GUIDE TO MOLD-AWARE SPECIFICATIONS



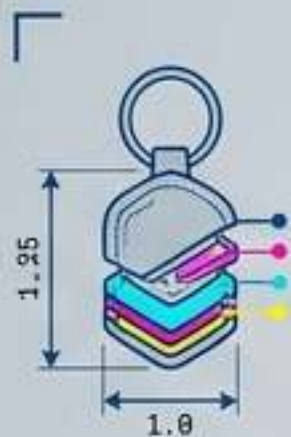
APPROVED
FOR SOURCING

Date: _____

Spec ID: _____

DEFINING THE MEDIUM: RUBBER IS A CATEGORY, NOT A CHEMISTRY

TECHNICAL CONTEXT & MATERIAL SCOPE



- CUSTOM RUBBER KEYCHAINS CONSIST OF A FLEXIBLE MOLDED BODY WITH RAISED, RECESSED, OR LAYERED COLORED DETAILS AND ATTACHED KEY HARDWARE.



- RUBBER DESCRIBES THE CATEGORY (ELASTOMERIC OR FLEXIBLE PLASTIC).



- BUYERS MUST NOT ASSUME A SPECIFIC CHEMICAL COMPOSITION (LIKE SILICONE OR PVC) UNTIL EXPLICITLY IDENTIFIED BY THE SUPPLIER.

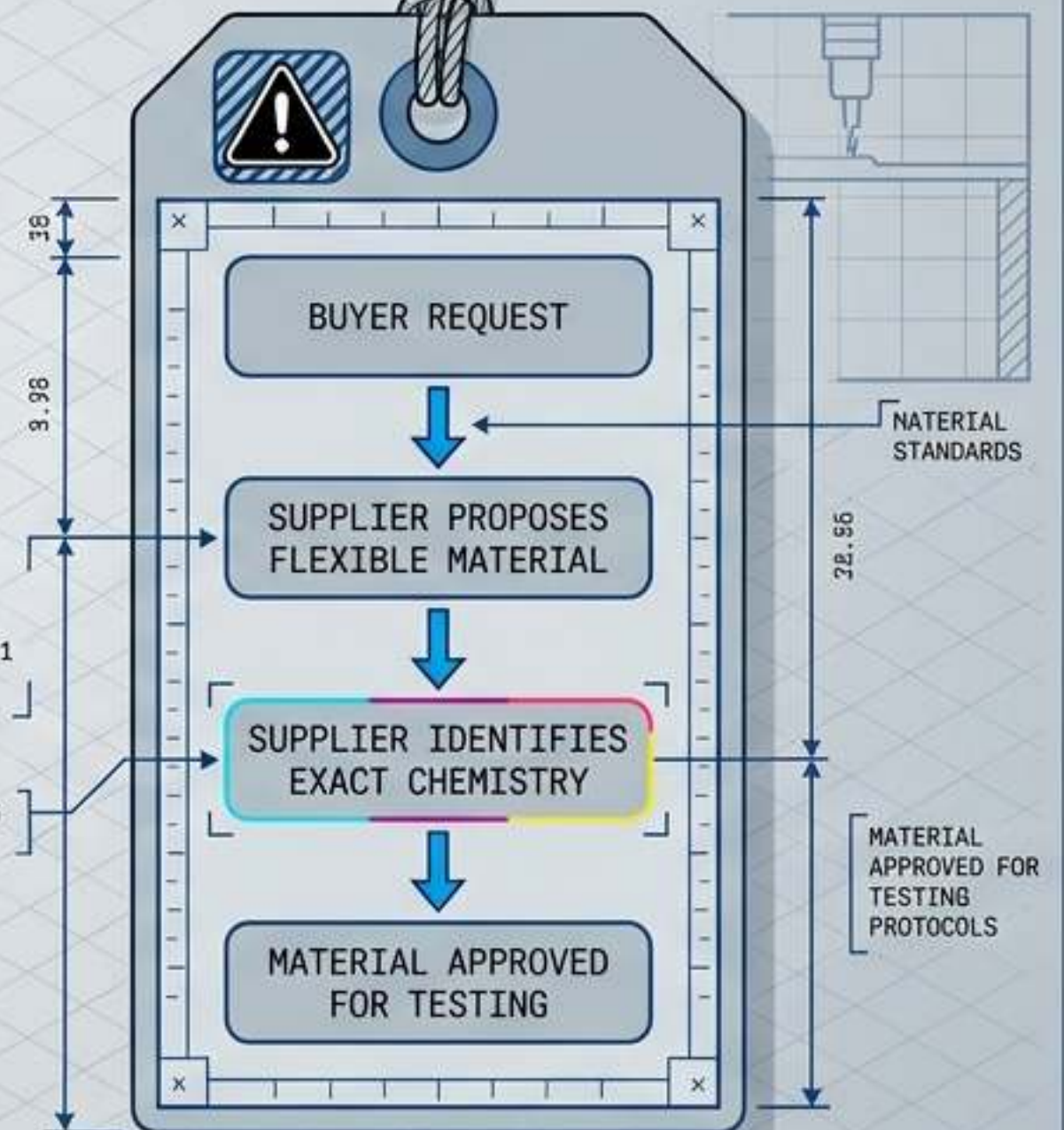
SPEC ID

MATERIAL SCOPE

MATERIAL ID SCHEMATIC TAG

BUYER HOLDER
MATERIAL
STANDARDS VS.1.1
TR:/N/STADMIST
APPASD MOLDED
SPECIFIED

MOLDEER TESTING
MAD-S PR3TOCOL



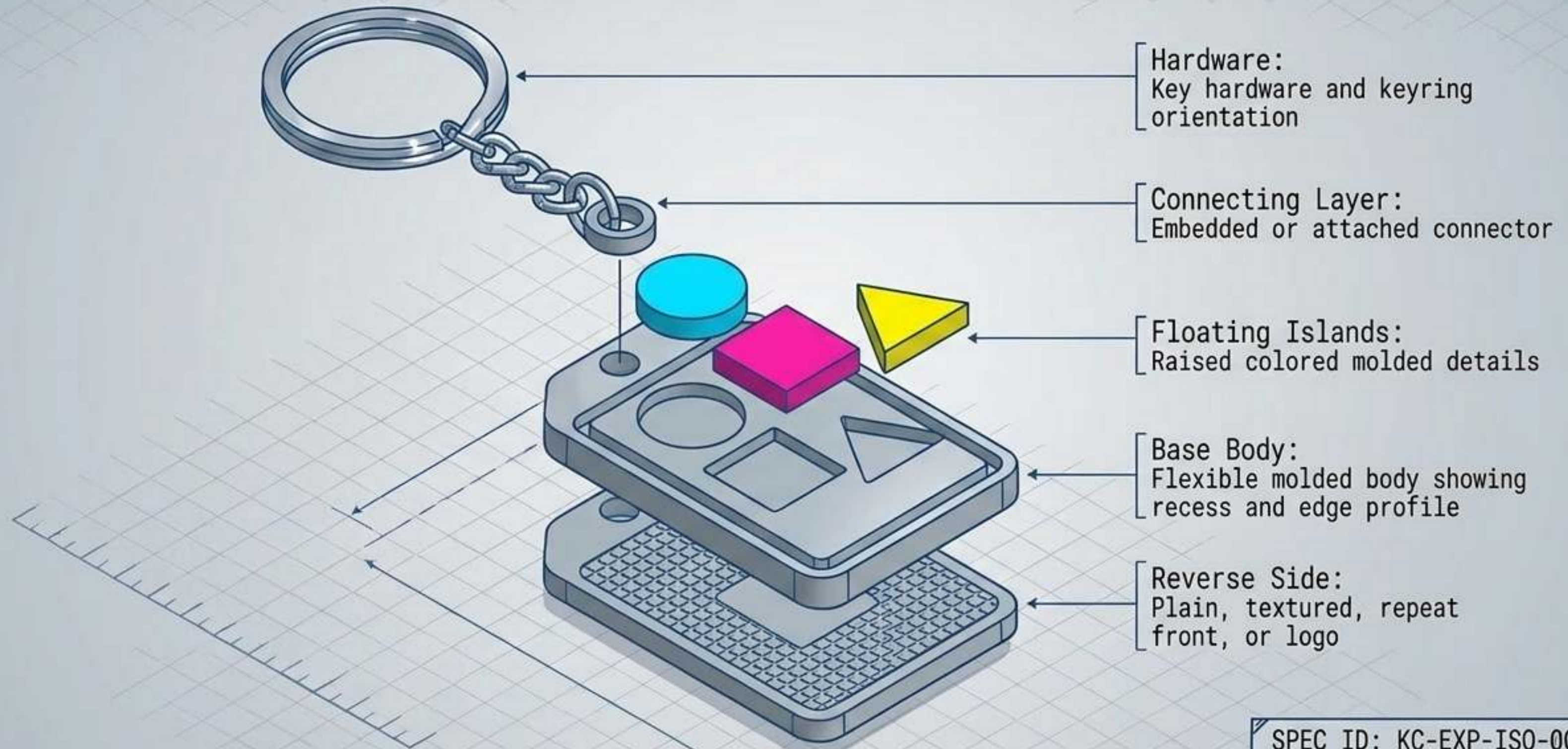
THE MATERIAL SUITABILITY MATRIX

DESIGN DIMENSIONS	Flexible Molded Rubber	Rigid Printed Acrylic	Engraved Wood	Stitched Fabric	Enamel-Filled Metal
Soft Feel & Flexible Silhouette	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Dimensional Relief	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Bold Separated Color Fields	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Extremely Fine Text Suitability	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Photographic Gradients	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Premium Metal Weight	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓



WARNING: Ask for alternate-route advice when your concept depends on photographic gradients or transparent printed layers.

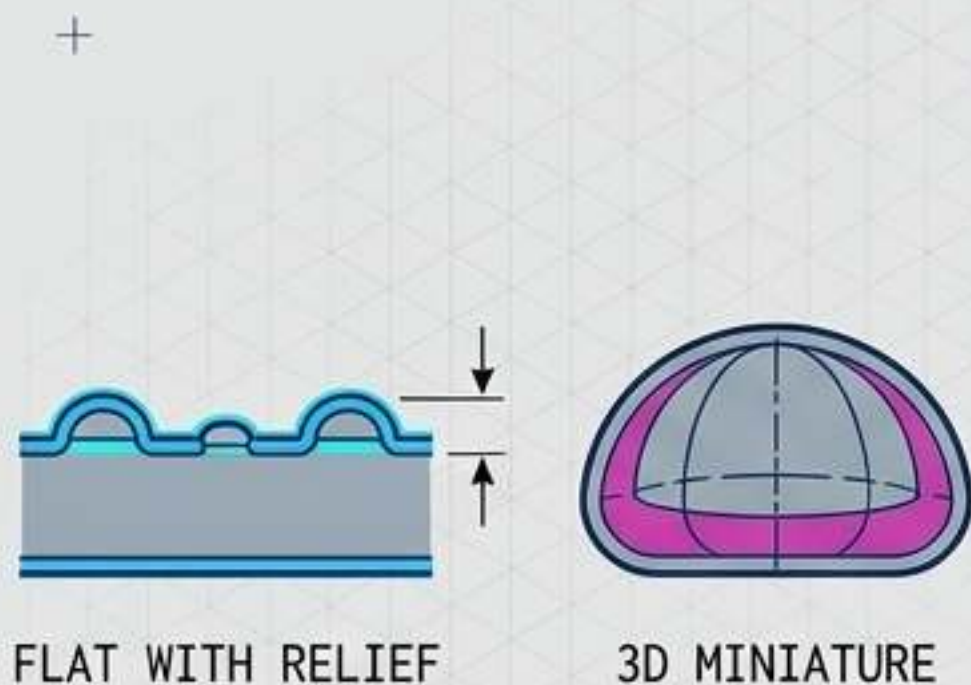
ANATOMY OF A SPEC: THE EXPLODED ISOMETRIC VIEW



SPEC ID: KC-EXP-ISO-001

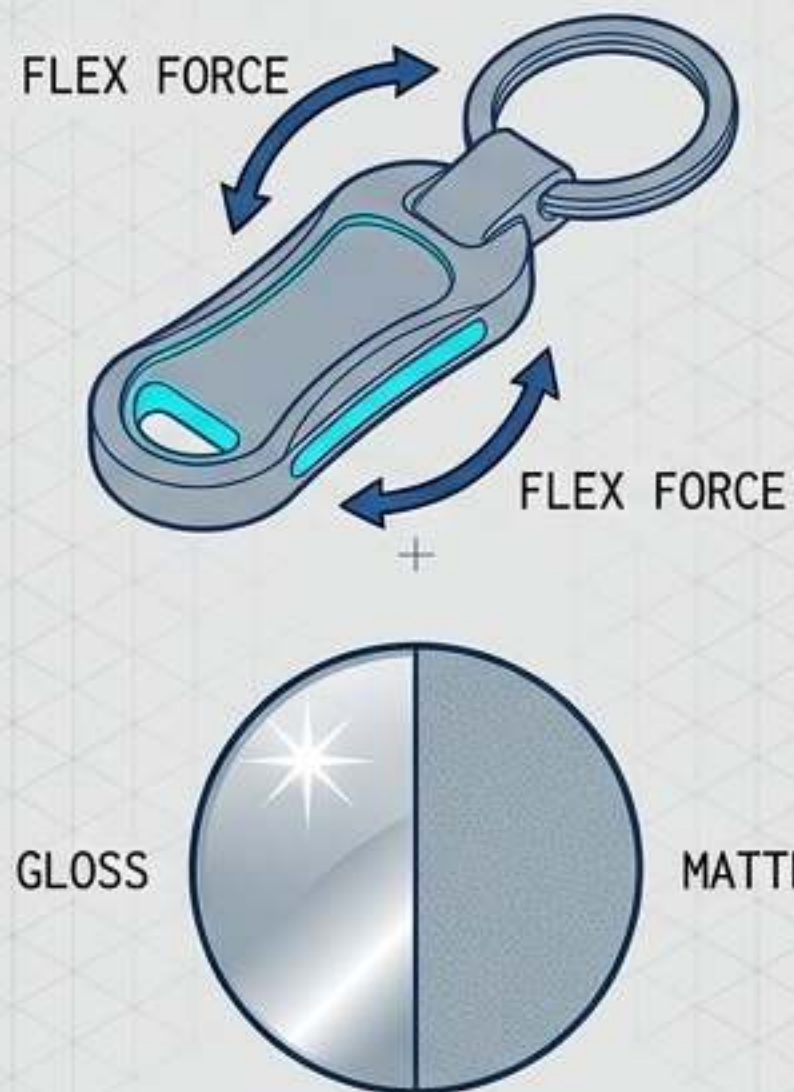
Defining the Physical Profile and Geometry

DIMENSIONALITY



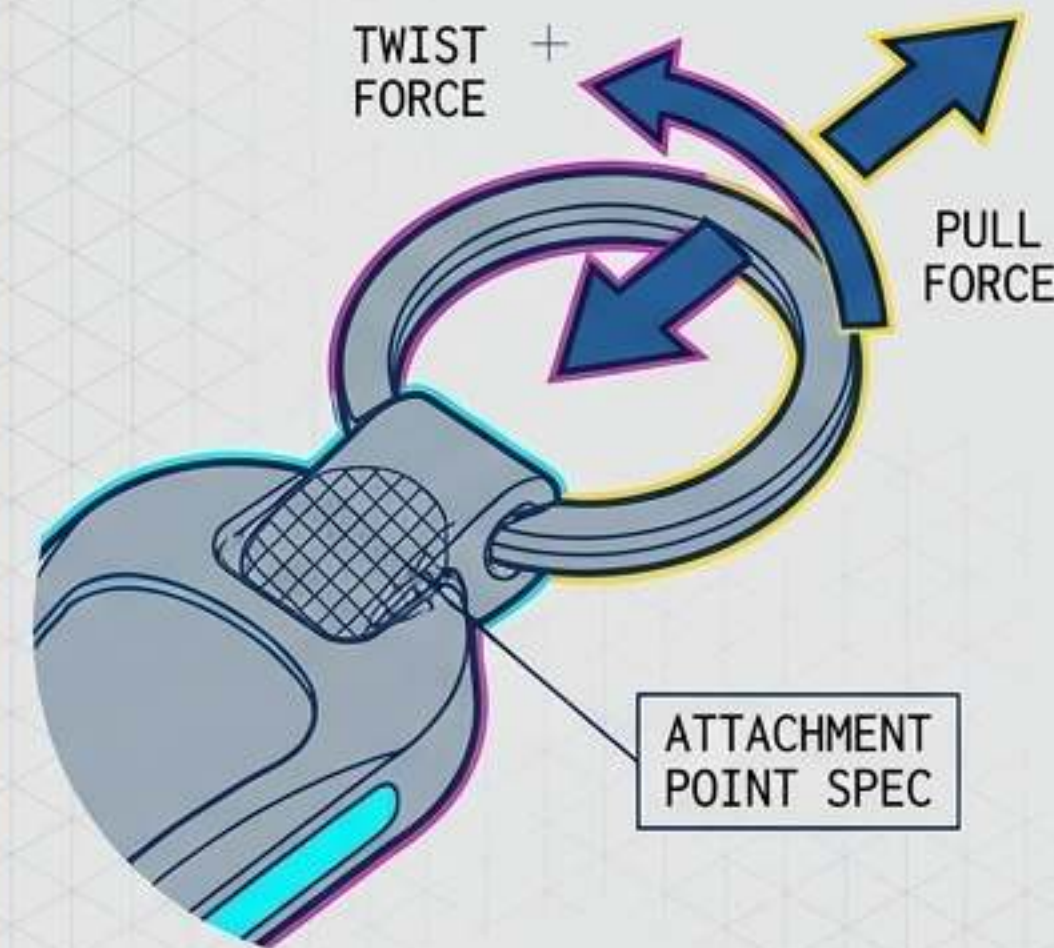
Define whether the design is flat with relief, two-sided, layered, or a fully 3D miniature object.

FLEXIBILITY & FINISH



Define overall flexibility and desired surface appearance (Gloss vs. Matte). Identify face, reverse, and edge treatments.

HARDWARE INTEGRATION

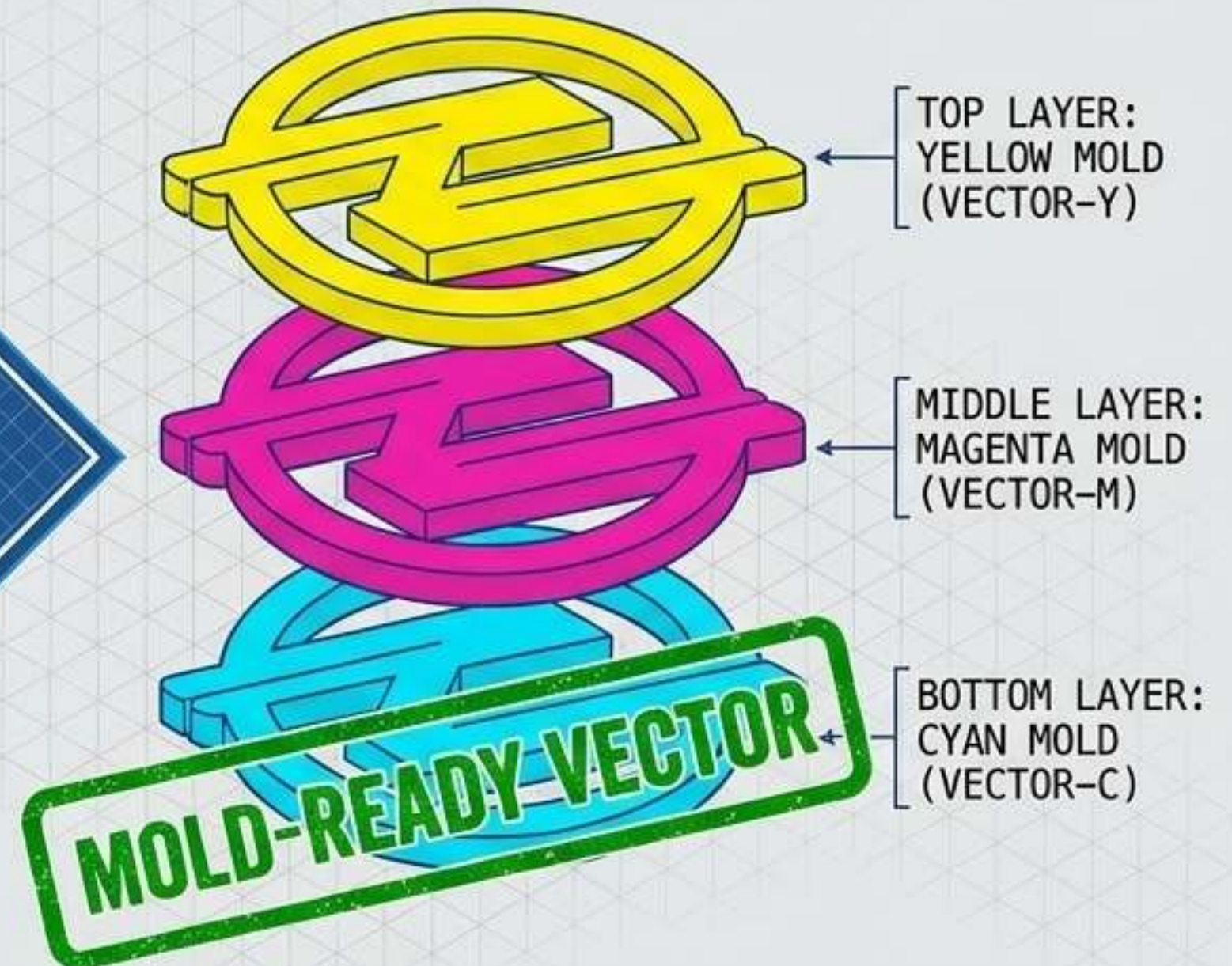
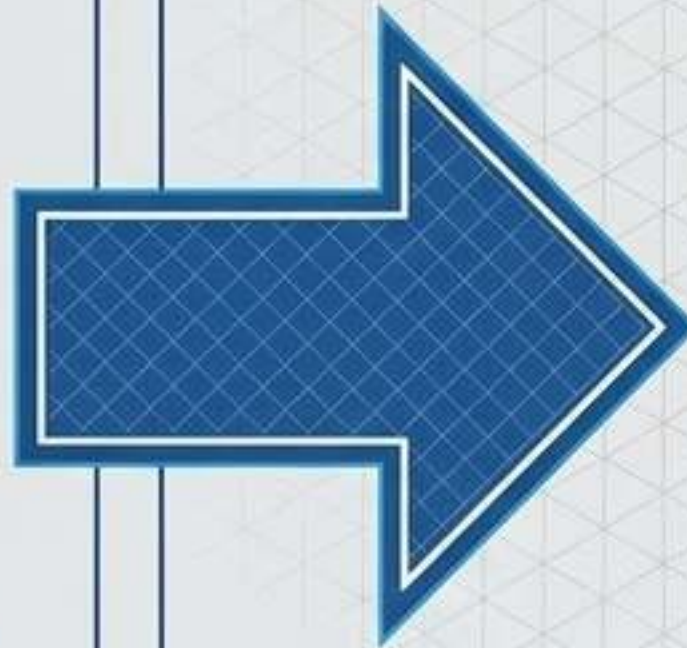


Specify how the connector is embedded or attached. Consider if twisting, pulling, or repeated use warrants a specific physical test plan.

Designing for the Mold: Vector Separation

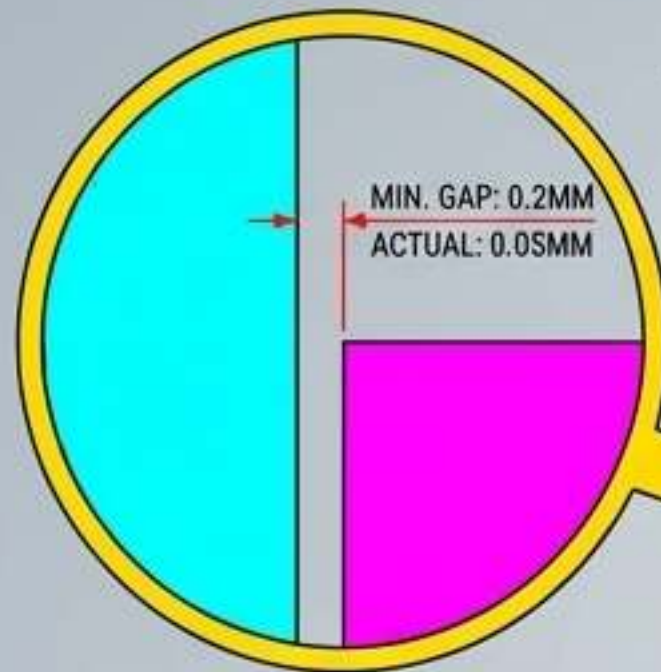


The Bad Idea: Simplify gradients and photographic detail into moldable areas. Cannot be produced with discrete colored materials in injection molding.

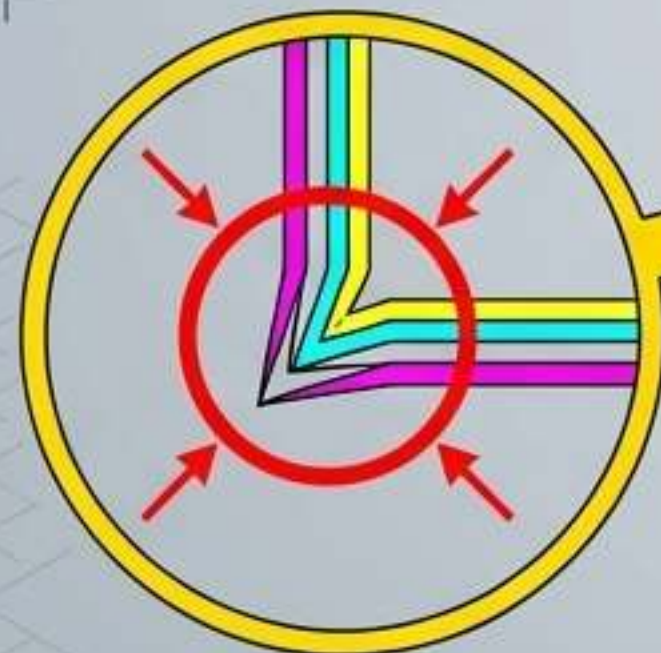


The Mold-Ready Idea: Clean vector artwork with each molded color on a separate labeled layer. Ensures precise material separation and tooling.

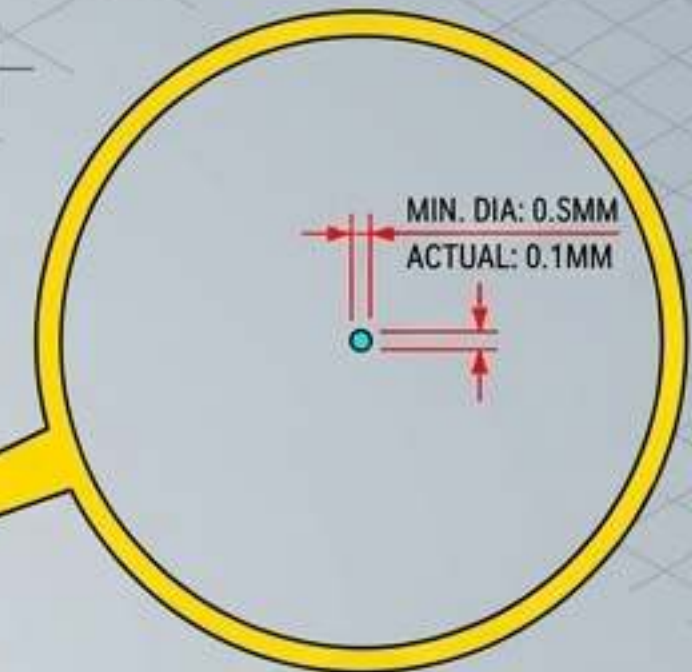
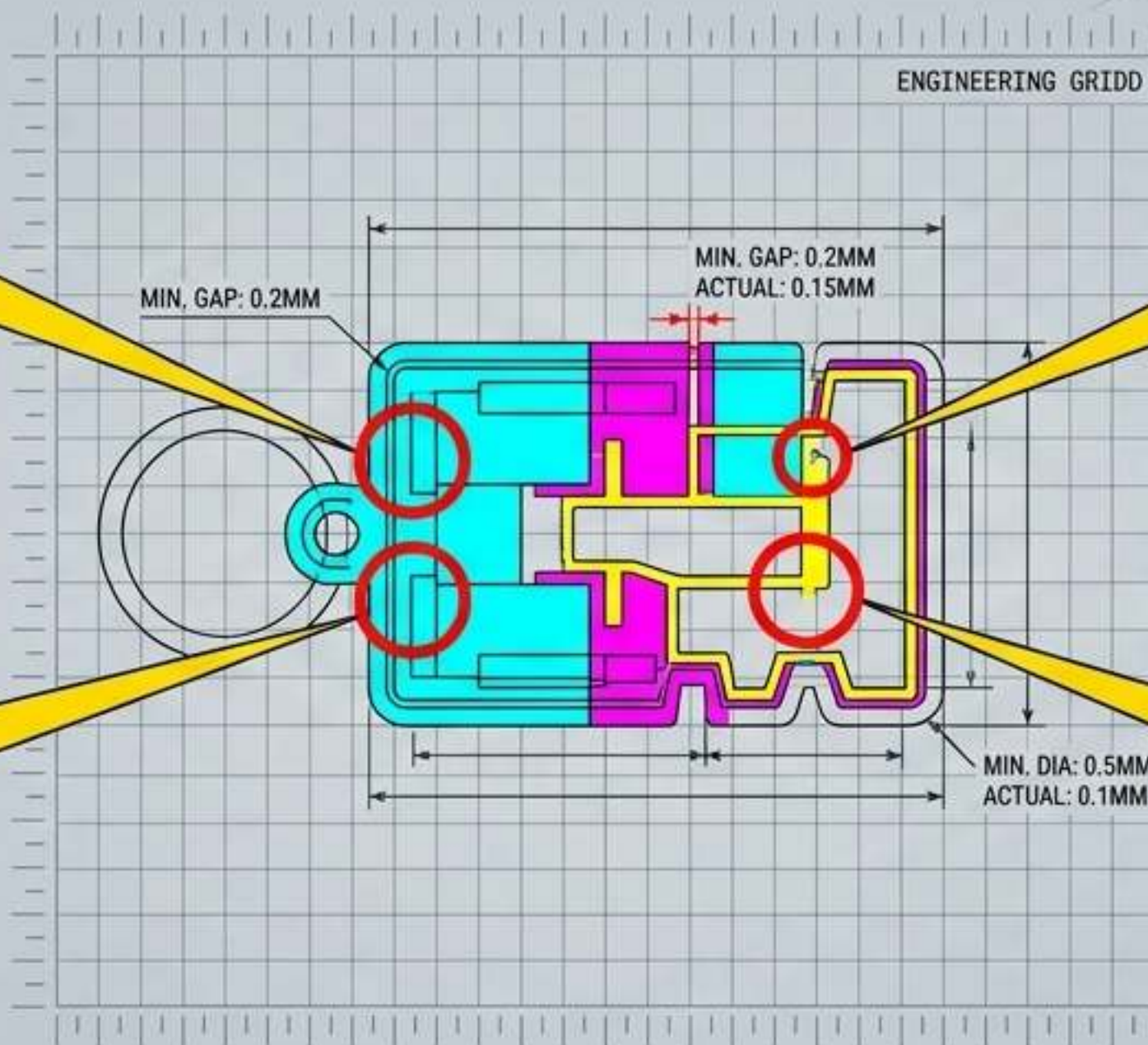
Geometry Danger Zones: Designing for Feasibility



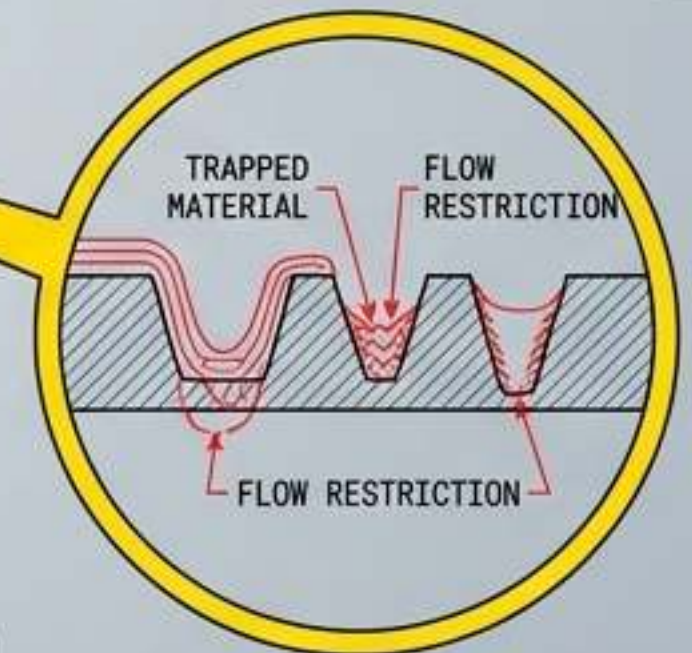
Narrow Channels



Acute Corners



Tiny Islands



Deep Recesses & Closely Spaced Colors

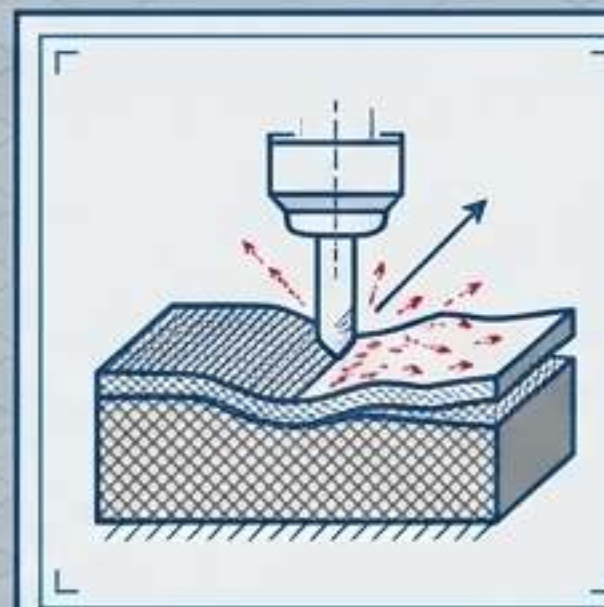
Molded colors are discrete regions. Suppliers must review these specific geometry constraints to confirm molding feasibility. Preserve trademark proportions but allow suppliers to flag minimum-feature constraints.

Material Health, Compliance, and Performance Testing



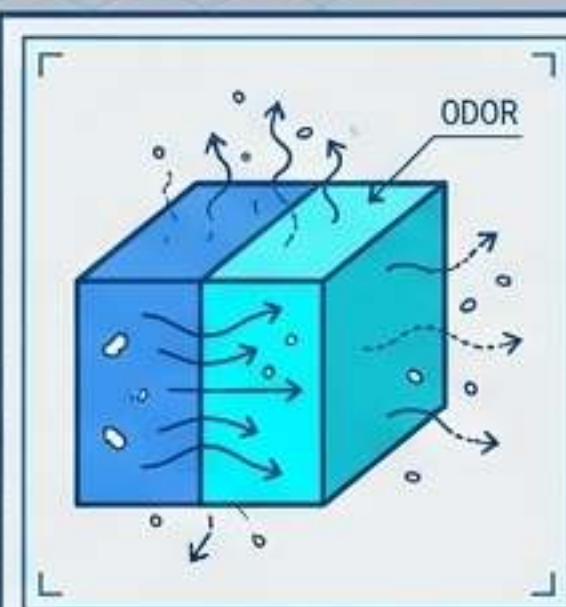
Chemical & Safety Compliance

Requirements for restricted substances and child-safety testing. Disclose intended market and user group early.



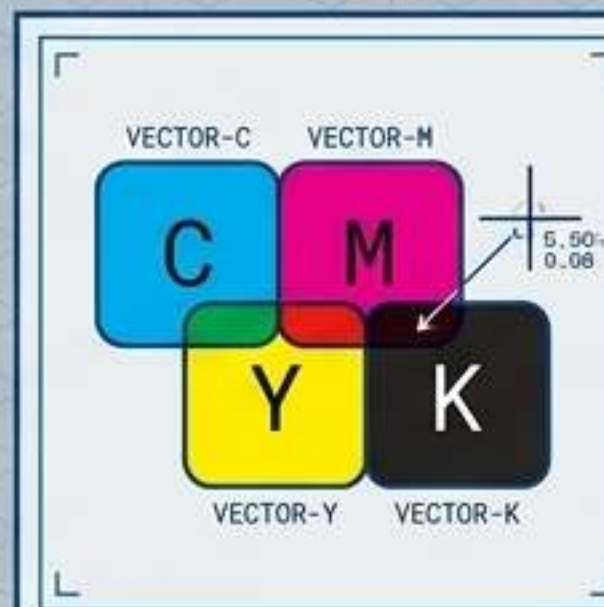
Wear & Degradation

Assess surface wear and attachment performance under physical stress testing.



Odor & Migration

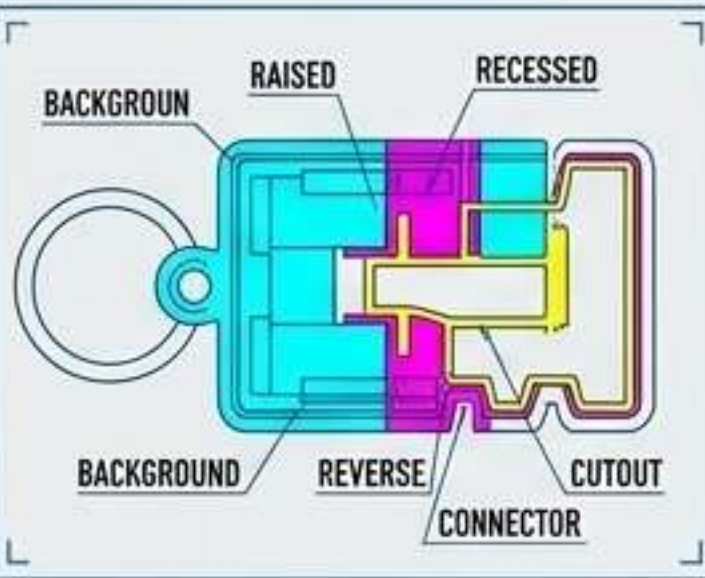
Test for strong material odor and prevent dye color migration between adjacent molded layers.



Color Matching

Request material and color proposals rather than assuming a generic compound or an exact screen match.

The Artwork Spec Handoff Package



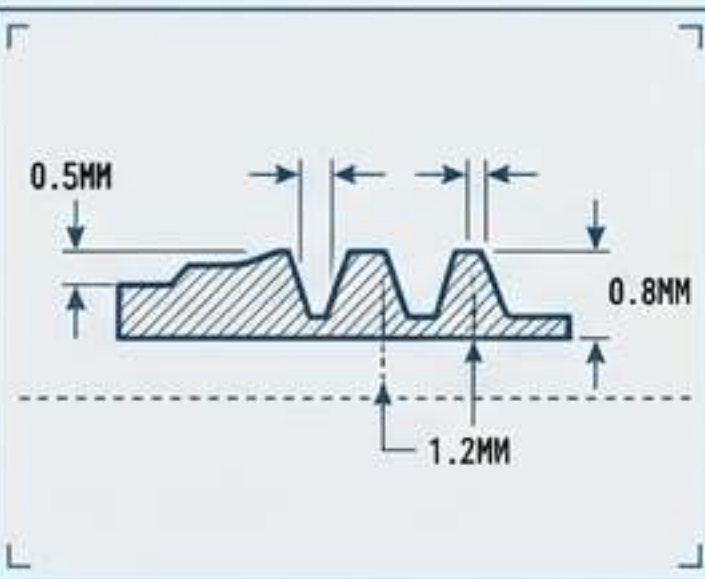
Asset 1: Labeled Vector Layers

Distinguish raised, recessed, background, reverse, cutout, and connector regions.



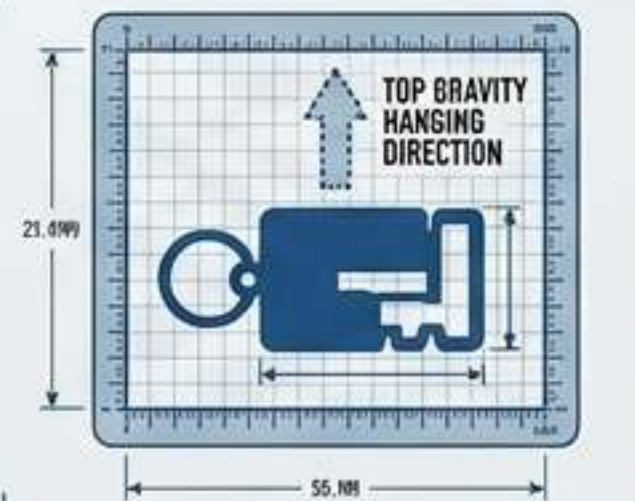
Asset 2: Color Key

A precise map of the discrete molded color regions.



Asset 3: Section View

A cross-section diagram showing important relief relationships.

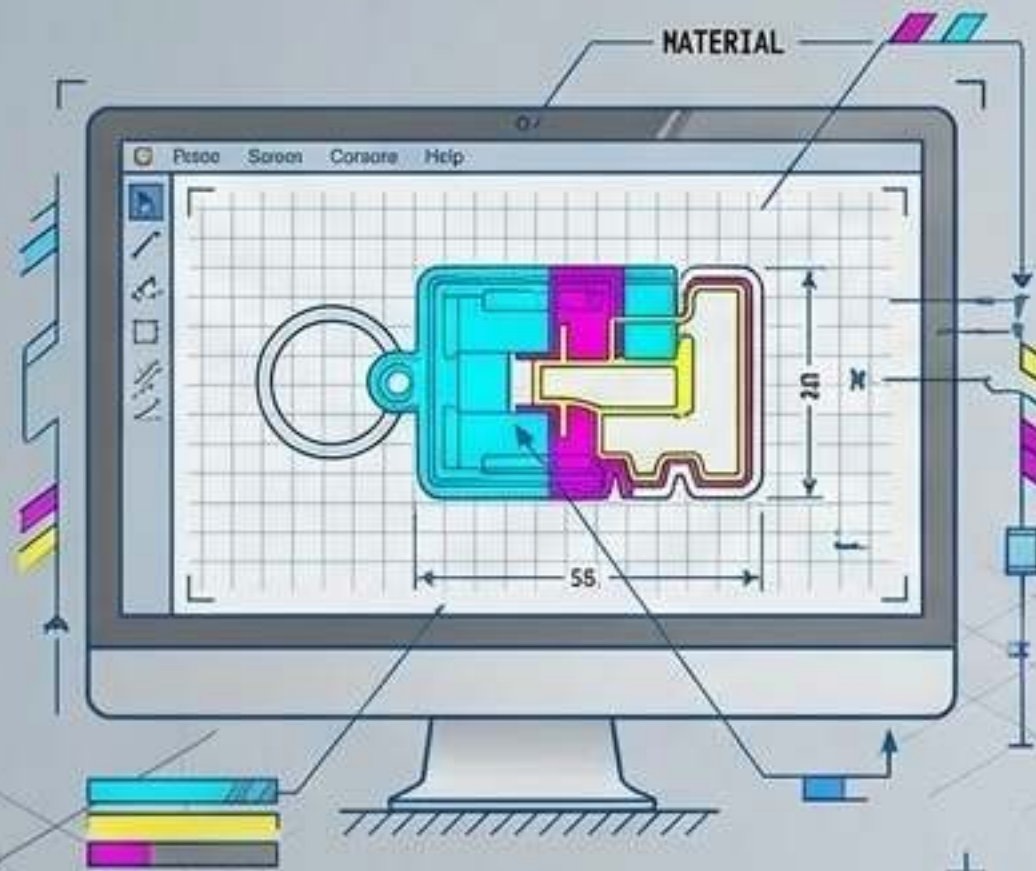


Asset 4: Scale & Orientation

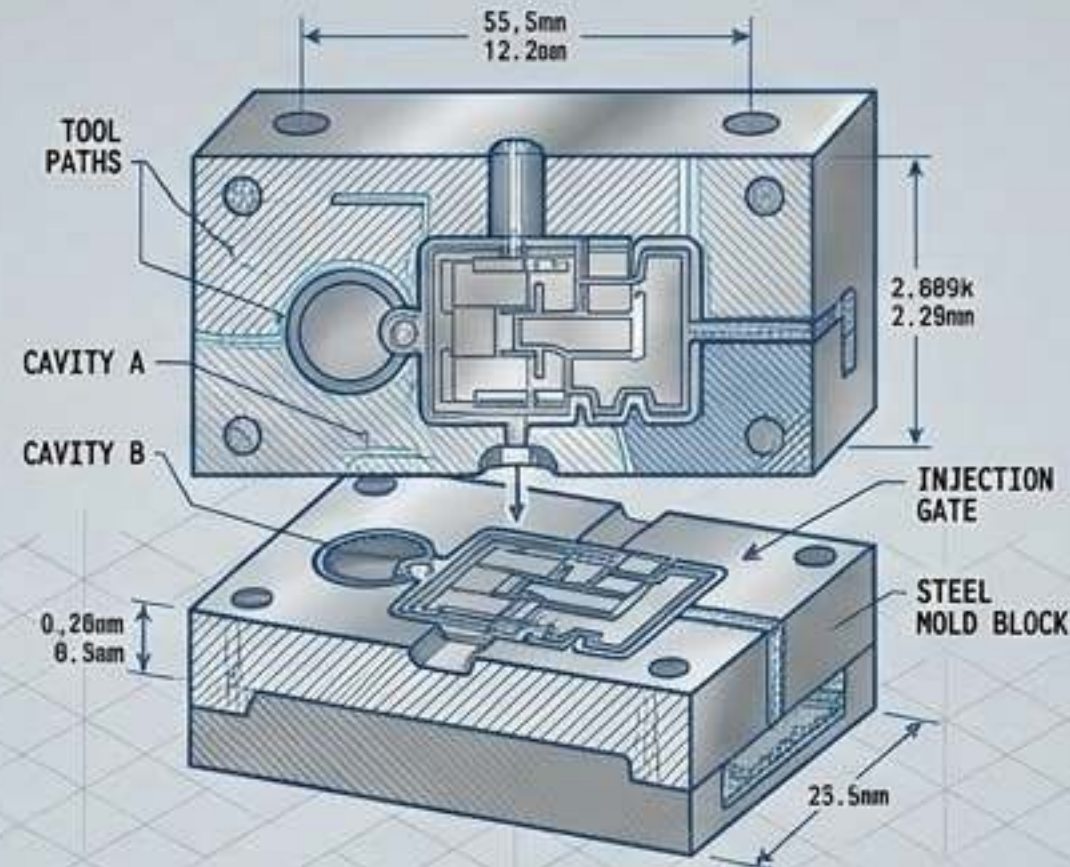
A scaled reference image explicitly showing the intended keyring orientation.

The Proofing Progression: Rendering vs. Reality

Dimensional Rendering (Flat) → Mold Proof (Tooling) → Physical Preproduction Sample



Useful for layout, but fails to communicate feel and relief.



Verifies the geometry and tool paths prior to material injection.



Crucial. A physical sample is significantly more informative than a flat rendering for assessing relief, flexibility, color accuracy, and attachment integrity.

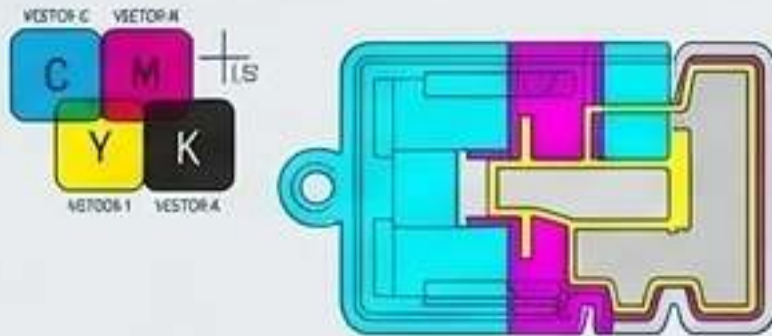


Quotation Drivers: Quantities and Mold Economics

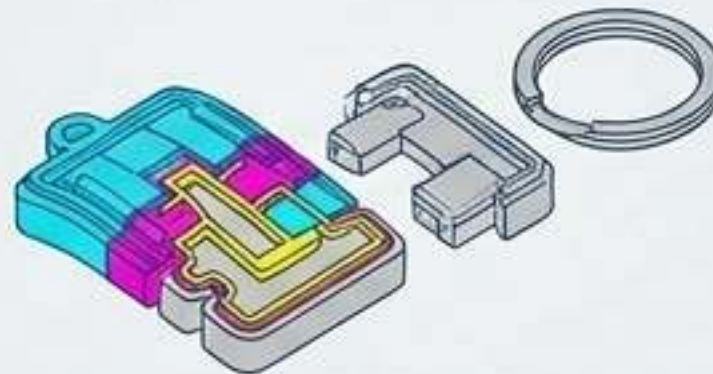
Total Requested Quantity

(Specify by design, colorway, reverse design, and hardware finish)

A. Number of Color Regions



B. Separate Components



C. Assembly Requirements

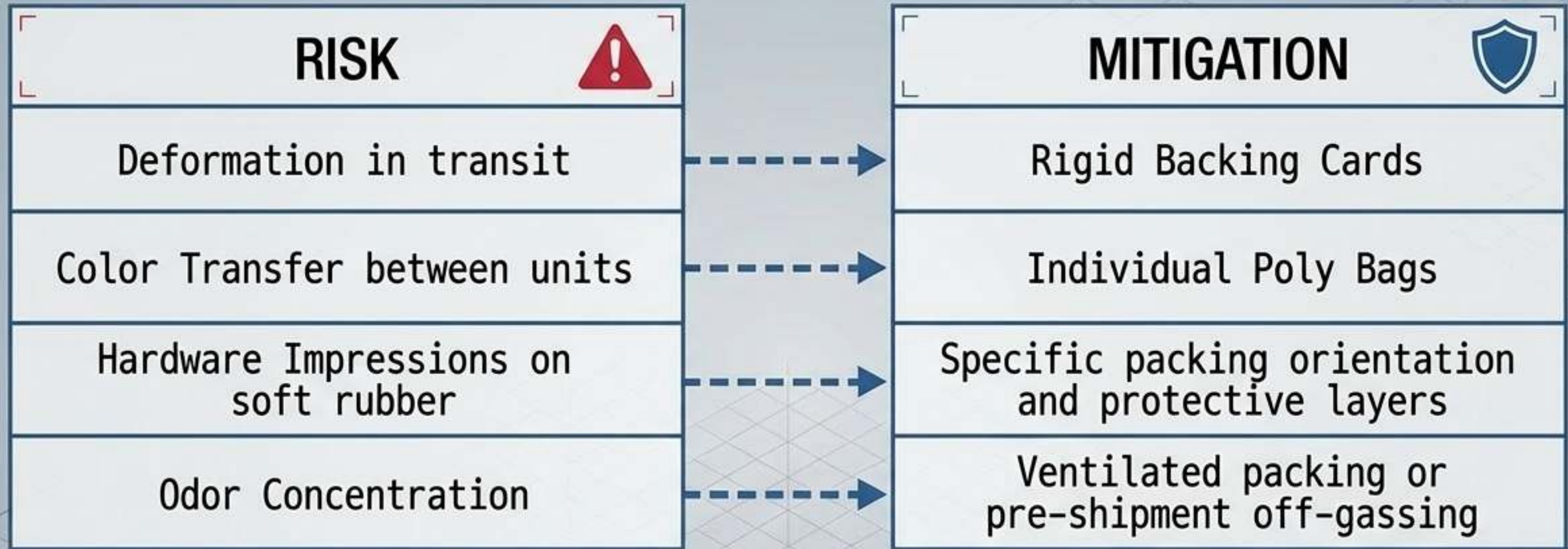


The Mold Sharing Question

If multiple colorways use the exact same geometry, ask whether the mold can be shared (subject to technical review) to reduce tooling costs.

Note: Provide destination and delivery-window requirements without assuming a lead time.

Packaging Considerations: Risk & Mitigation

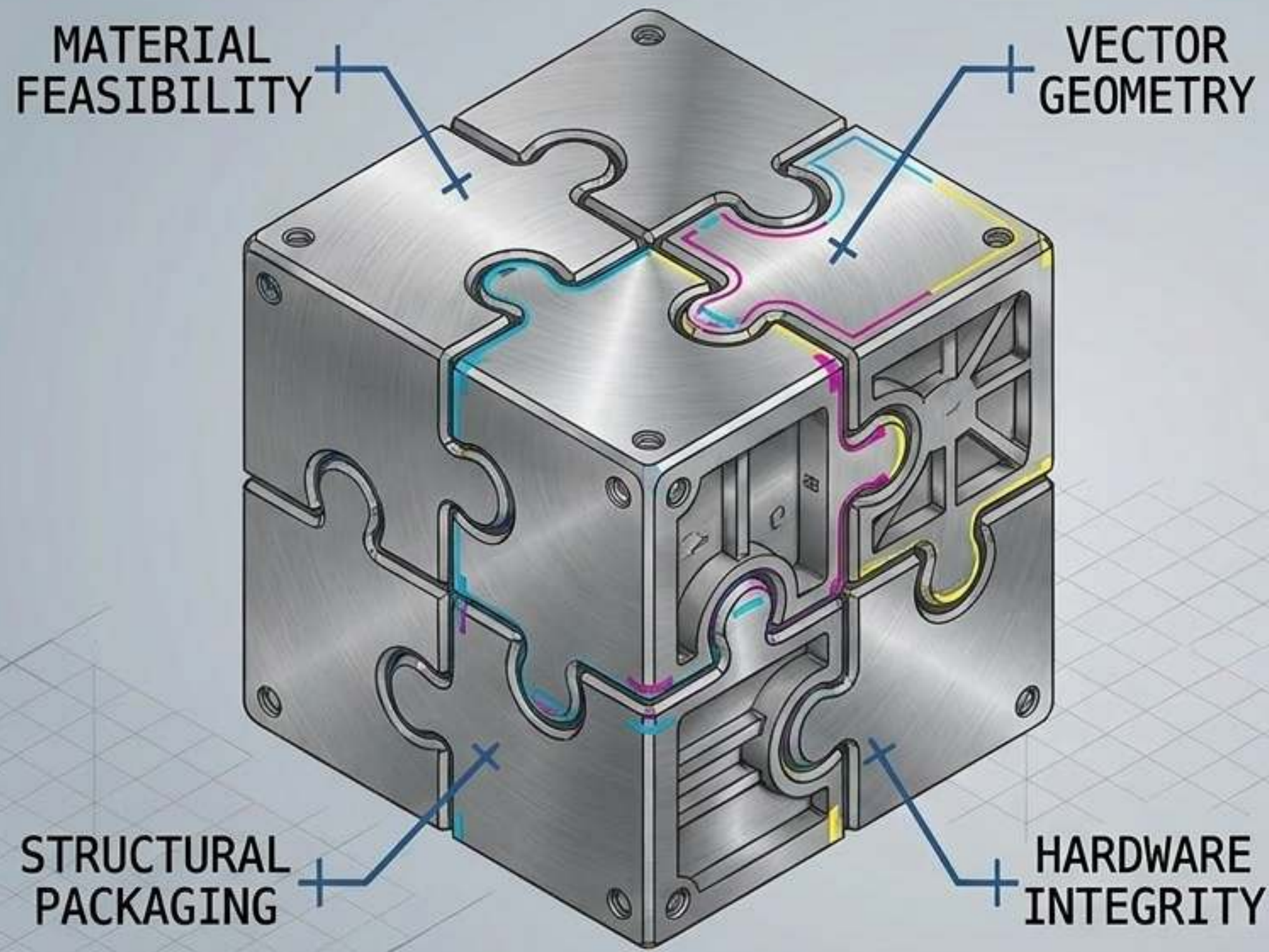


Additional Packing Specs

Define labels, barcode placement, assortments, and carton marks clearly in the RFQ.



Synthesis: The Mold-Aware Keychain



SYNTHESIS STATEMENT

A successful custom rubber keychain is not just a printed logo applied to plastic. It is a harmony of structural elements.

The vector artwork dictates the mold, the mold dictates the geometry, the geometry defines the material feasibility, and the packaging protects the final physical relief.

Final technical and commercial commitments require all these elements to be reviewed in unison.



The 8-Point RFQ Execution Dashboard

- ☐ Provide vector artwork with molded colors and relief levels separated.
- ☐ State quantity by design/colorway, destination, and delivery requirement.
- ☐ Request identification of the proposed flexible material and finish.
- ☐ Define front, reverse, edge profile, flexibility, and hanging orientation.
- ☐ Confirm connector construction, key hardware type, action, and finish.
- ☐ Flag fine features, small text, critical colors, and compliance needs.
- ☐ Request mold proof, physical sample, and relevant performance testing plan.
- ☐ Specify packing, backing cards, labels, assortments, and carton marks.

RESTRICTION REMINDER: Do not invent material grades, hardness, or test ratings. Let the supplier propose, and you approve.

