EQUIPMENT DUTY SPECIFICATION / ILLUSTRATIVE CASE

What must the replacement equipment deliver?

The management decision

Write down the operating conditions in which the unit has to work. Buyers can then ask each supplier for performance at the same conditions and see which claims remain unanswered.

An equipment quote can meet a headline rating while leaving open whether it will handle the conditions your site faces daily. Overstating a worst case can also narrow the market or make bids unnecessarily costly. A clear specification ties each requirement to an actual operating need and shows suppliers what evidence to provide. This gives the team a more useful basis for comparing quotes and explaining why a requirement matters.

Worked example

Three operating conditions and four performance criteria give a supplier 12 points to demonstrate. If nine have supporting information, three remain open. Each open point should be tied to the requirement it could affect.

Example figure	What it represents
12	Points to demonstrate
9	Supported
3	Open questions

What changes the answer

If two extreme conditions cannot occur together, combining them may overstate the required rating. Ask the site owner which combinations are feasible before making the highest rating mandatory.

Equipment duty specification

What to commission

Prepare a performance specification for one equipment item using normal, low and high demand conditions.

We use the information you provide to define the required performance, limits and connections. We identify where a requirement is supported by a record and where your team still needs to confirm which conditions occur together.

How to judge the result

Every agreed operating limit has a source, a required supplier response or a named owner for confirmation.

Check whether extreme conditions really occur together. Buying capacity for an impossible combination may raise cost without improving site performance.

Decision worksheet

Project detail	Starting point for your team
Decision owner	Engineering procurement manager. Name the person who will approve the next step.
Records to gather	Required output, typical and unusual operating conditions, and relevant site constraints.
Agreed output	A written equipment specification and a table of requirements and evidence.
Decision date	Record the deadline, any unresolved assumption and who will confirm it.

Discuss this case

Tell us what the equipment must do, what prompted the purchase and which conditions are most uncertain. Mention when you need documents for the supplier or procurement team. A brief overview of the current equipment and the expected change helps define the first discussion.

Email info@oxetc.co.uk and mention ENG-05. All figures in the worked example are illustrative.