



MARCH 2026 · CAD & DRAFTING

Bring legacy drawings forward without losing their history

Legacy drawing conversion is more than tracing lines. A useful conversion preserves the source, makes uncertainty visible and produces files that the customer can review before they are used for manufacture or modification.

Clear information. Confident next steps.

Eight-page reading booklet
Collection first published 22 September 2026
Booklet edition updated 24 September 2026



01 / UNDERSTAND

Start with a clear foundation

Assess before converting

Group the source material by quality and purpose. A clear dimensioned PDF needs a different approach from a faded scan or an undimensioned photograph. Record missing views, illegible dimensions and conflicting revisions before estimating the work. Avoid treating a drawing's visual scale as an approved measurement.

Preserve a traceable link

Keep the original file and note its identifier in the reconstruction register. Document any customer decisions used to resolve gaps. Native CAD files, neutral exports and PDFs should be labelled so users can tell which files belong to the same issue. If geometry is simplified for documentation, state that purpose.



02 / APPLY

Turn information into action

Review for the intended use

A model that works for a parts illustration may not contain the information needed to manufacture the part. Before production use, the responsible technical authority needs to approve the relevant dimensions, materials, tolerances and other requirements. Reconstruction alone does not verify the original design.

Reconstruction is not verification

A legacy drawing conversion may reproduce the source accurately while the actual machine has changed. Before modelling, distinguish the task of translating information from the task of verifying physical equipment. Record missing dimensions, conflicting views and uncertain modifications. Photographs can help orientation but may not establish critical measurements or internal features. If measurement or engineering assessment is needed, arrange it with an appropriate person and include its approved results in the source register.



03 / LOOK CLOSER

Preserve the decision trail

Keep the original source unchanged and record where each reconstructed value came from. Use a query register for uncertainty and do not silently convert assumptions into confirmed dimensions. Deliver a model status that reflects its intended use: a visual reference model is not automatically a manufacturing model. Test exports in the agreed receiving environment and check units. A controlled conversion should make the information more usable while preserving visibility of the source's limitations.

- Which user needs this information most urgently?
- Which source is authoritative, and who can approve it?
- What would make a small pilot useful to your team?

**04 / WORKSHOP**

Make it a team conversation

Use one small, approved example from your own organisation. Nominate a document owner and a reviewer, then apply the checklist below. Record the initial problem, the proposed improvement and the evidence needed to confirm it. Keep the exercise separate from any live equipment activity or production change until the appropriate authority approves it. Discuss what became clearer, which inputs were missing and whether the same approach can be repeated. A modest improvement that your team actually uses is a stronger starting point than an ambitious system with no agreed owner.

- Name the document owner and technical reviewer.
- Write down one unresolved source-information question.
- Agree one measurable information-finding task.
- Record what changed after the review.



05 / WORK WITH CDX

A practical delivery partnership

CDX can help organise the source material, prepare a representative layout, produce the agreed CAD or documentation outputs and maintain a comment register through review. Offshore production is coordinated by Australian management under a defined scope. We do not provide engineering sign-off or create evidence of inspections that have not occurred. Bring the approved source information, your intended audience and the required deliverable list to the discussion. We will identify the preparation work, unresolved questions and review responsibilities before agreeing the production scope.

- Supporting documentation from AUD \$10/hr + GST.
- CAD drafting & modelling from AUD \$16/hr + GST.
- Technical documentation from AUD \$16/hr + GST.
- 12-month work warranty; scope and conditions apply.



06 / CHECK & ACT

Your next step

Start with a small representative batch. Use it to establish a conversion standard and understand the typical gaps before committing to the full archive.

- Retain the source drawing.
- List illegible or missing information.
- Confirm the intended use of the reconstructed model.
- Record approved decisions and assumptions.
- Obtain technical approval before manufacture or modification.



07 / TAKE IT FORWARD

A one-page improvement brief

Use these prompts to start a focused discussion with your team. Keep confidential equipment details inside your approved project channels.

- Problem: what information is difficult to find or trust?
- Reader: who needs it and at what point in their work?
- Source: which approved files and records exist?
- Deliverable: what would make the information usable?
- Review: who will confirm the technical content?
- Success: how will you check whether it helped?

Start a scoped conversation

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General educational material. CDX prepares work for review and does not provide engineering sign-off. Your responsible authority approves equipment-specific instructions and technical decisions.