Postprocessor

The postprocessor is the linkbetween the CLDATA / cutting location data that have been generated in the CAM-program, and the CNC-machine on which the workpiece is going to be processed. The CL-DATA-file essentially contains the calculated location of the contour cutter line (CLDATA1). The technological data are contained in CLDATA2. Some systems issue them together. The structure of a CL-DATA-file is defined in the standards ISO 3592/4343 and DIN 66215.

The CLDATA-file can not be run on a machine, without being translated by a postprocessor into the machine syntax of the particular machine that is going to process the workpiece. Postprocessors are not easily exchangeable, as they take into account specific machine characteristics, like number of NC-axes, maximal movements, kinematics (feed and spindle revolutions per minute), tool changes, as well as the NC-instructions that can be freely defined by the manufacturer. The postprocessor automatically generates the machine-specific NC-program with all its instructions, feeds, revolutions per minute and compensation data in the correct block sequence.