FabQuote Pro

User manual
Laser cutting quotes from DXF files

Program version 2.4 · ToolBit.pl · toolbit.pl/fabquote · kontakt@toolbit.pl

Contents

1. What FabQuote Pro is 3
2. Installation and first launch 3
3. The main window 4
4. Initial setup (once) 4
5. Language, units and currencies 8
6. Creating a quote step by step 9
7. Material requirement 12
8. Nesting — beta 13
9. Customers 14
10. Licence, trial and updates 15
11. Troubleshooting 17

1. What FabQuote Pro is

FabQuote Pro prices laser cutting of sheet metal. It calculates cost from the **actual machine time** — contour length, cutting speed for the given material and thickness, and the number of pierces — instead of a flat price per metre. On top of cutting it adds material (taking sheet utilisation into account), consumables, job preparation, secondary operations and margin, and produces a PDF quote for your customer.

The program runs in English or Polish, in metric or imperial units, and issues quotes in PLN, EUR, USD, GBP or CZK at the NBP (National Bank of Poland) exchange rate — see chapter 5.

Requirements

- Windows 10 or 11.
- Internet connection on first launch (trial registration) and when activating a licence key. Quoting itself runs locally — your drawings are never uploaded. The internet is also used to fetch NBP exchange rates (optional).
- A folder you can write to — the program stores its settings next to the EXE (see chapter 2).

2. Installation and first launch

1. Unzip **FabQuote_Pro.zip** into a folder of your own, e.g. **C:\FabQuote** or **Documents\FabQuote**.
2. Run **FabQuote_Pro.exe**. On first launch the program registers the trial on the server, so the computer must be online.
3. On a fresh installation the program picks its language from Windows: Polish Windows → Polish, any other language → English. You can change it in the **Language & units** tab.
4. The right side of the top bar shows the licence state: **Trial: N days** or **Licence active**.

> Do not unzip the program into **C:\Program Files**. FabQuote saves its files in the same folder as the EXE, and Windows blocks writing to Program Files — your settings and customer database would not be saved.

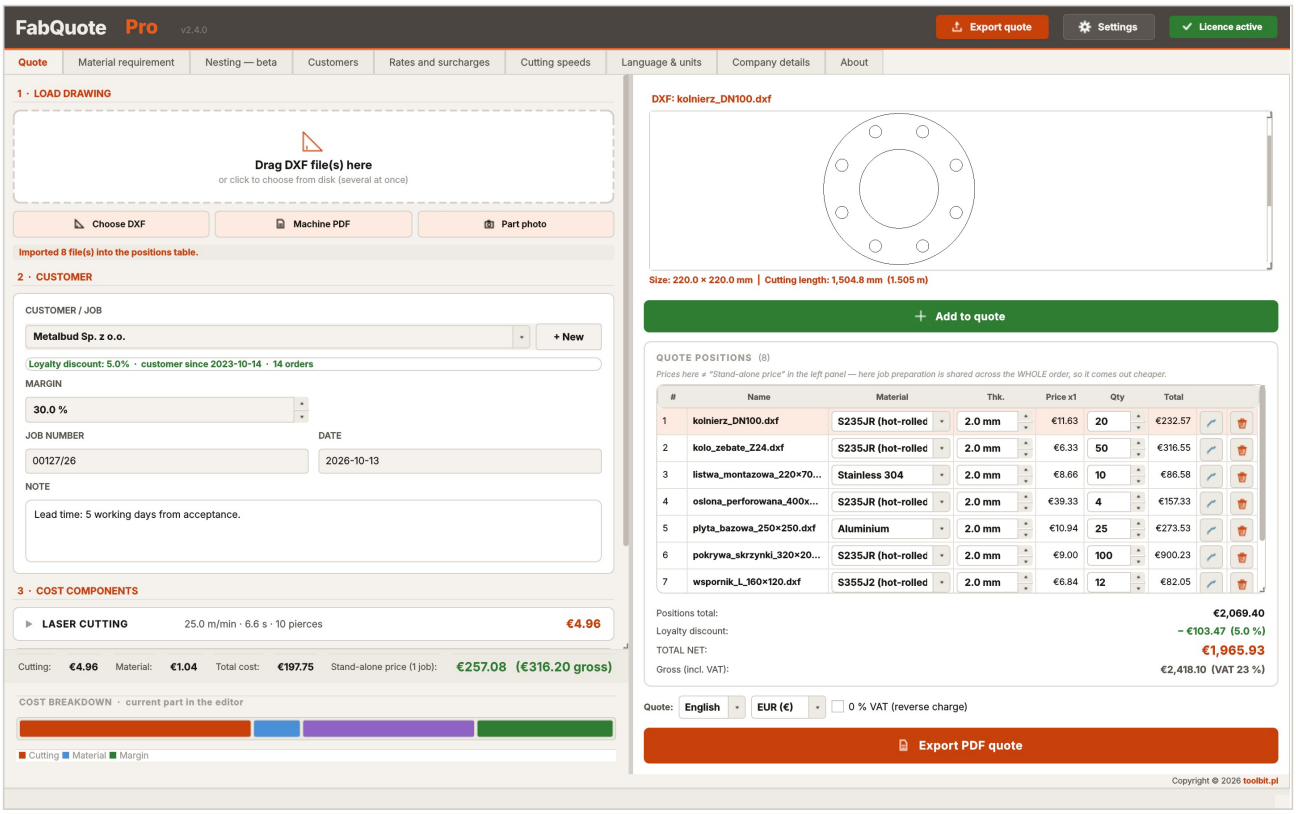
Files created by the program

File / folder	Contents
lcc_config.json	Rates, surcharges, cutting speeds, company details, language, units, currencies and exchange rates — all settings.
clients.db	Customer database with discounts and history.
Wyceny\	Default folder for PDF quotes (the folder name is the same in every language).
fabquote_log.txt	Program log — attach it when reporting a problem.

Backup: copy **lcc_config.json** and **clients.db**. To move to a new computer, copy both files into the folder of the new installation.

3. The main window

The top bar holds **Export quote**, **Settings** (opens the Rates and surcharges tab) and the licence state. Below it are the tabs:



The main window — Quote tab with eight positions in the table.

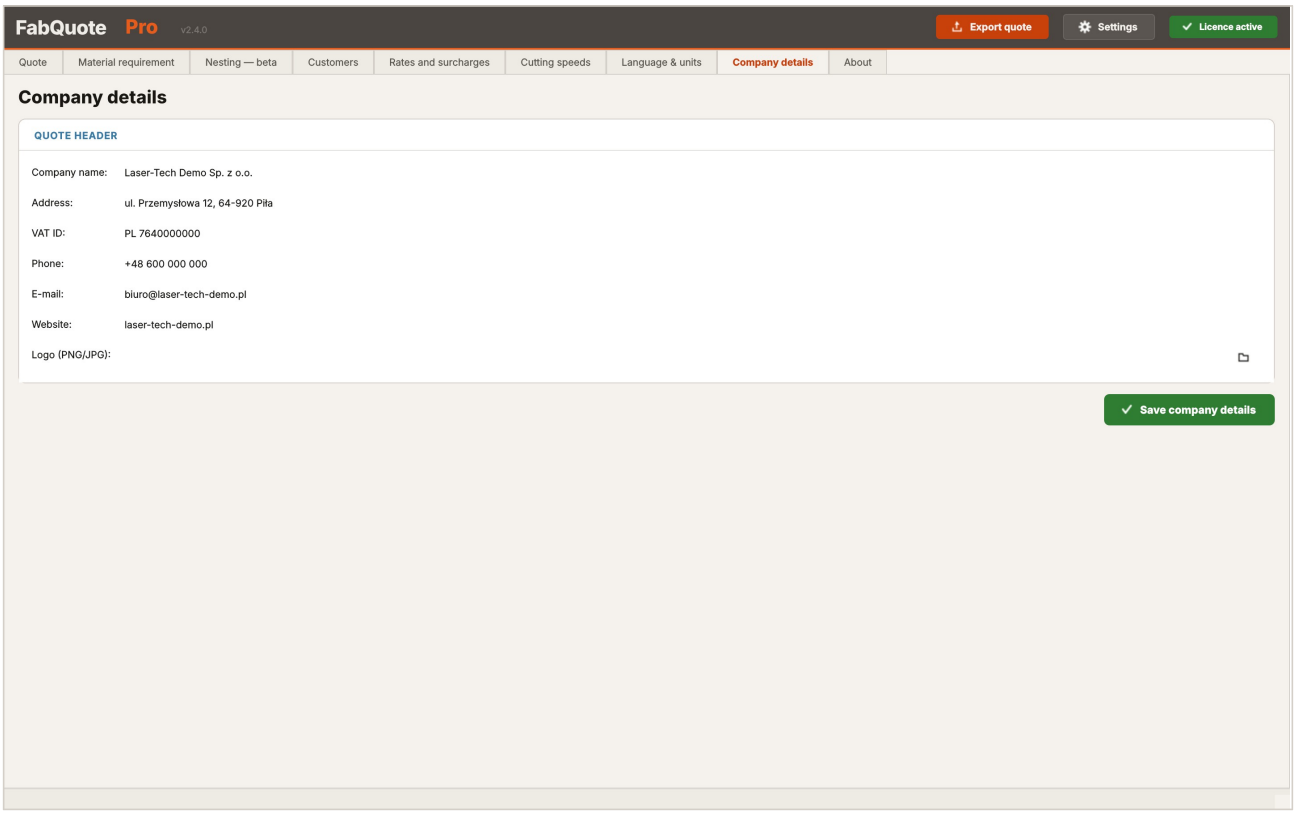
Tab	Purpose
Quote	Main workspace: load drawings, set parameters, quote table, PDF export.
Material requirement	How many sheets to buy for the positions in the quote.
Nesting — beta	Exact nesting of real part shapes from DXF.
Customers	Customer database and loyalty discounts.
Rates and surcharges	Machine, gas, energy, job preparation, material and operation rates.
Cutting speeds	Speeds and pierce times of your machine per material and thickness.
Language & units	Program language, units (mm/inches, kg/lb), currencies, NBP rates, VAT rate.
Company details	PDF quote header: name, address, VAT ID, contact, logo.
About	Version, update check, environment information.

4. Initial setup (once)

Before quoting, set the program up for your machine and price list. Each tab is saved with its own **Save…** button at the bottom. If you work in inches or in a currency other than the Polish złoty, start with chapter 5.

4.1 Company details

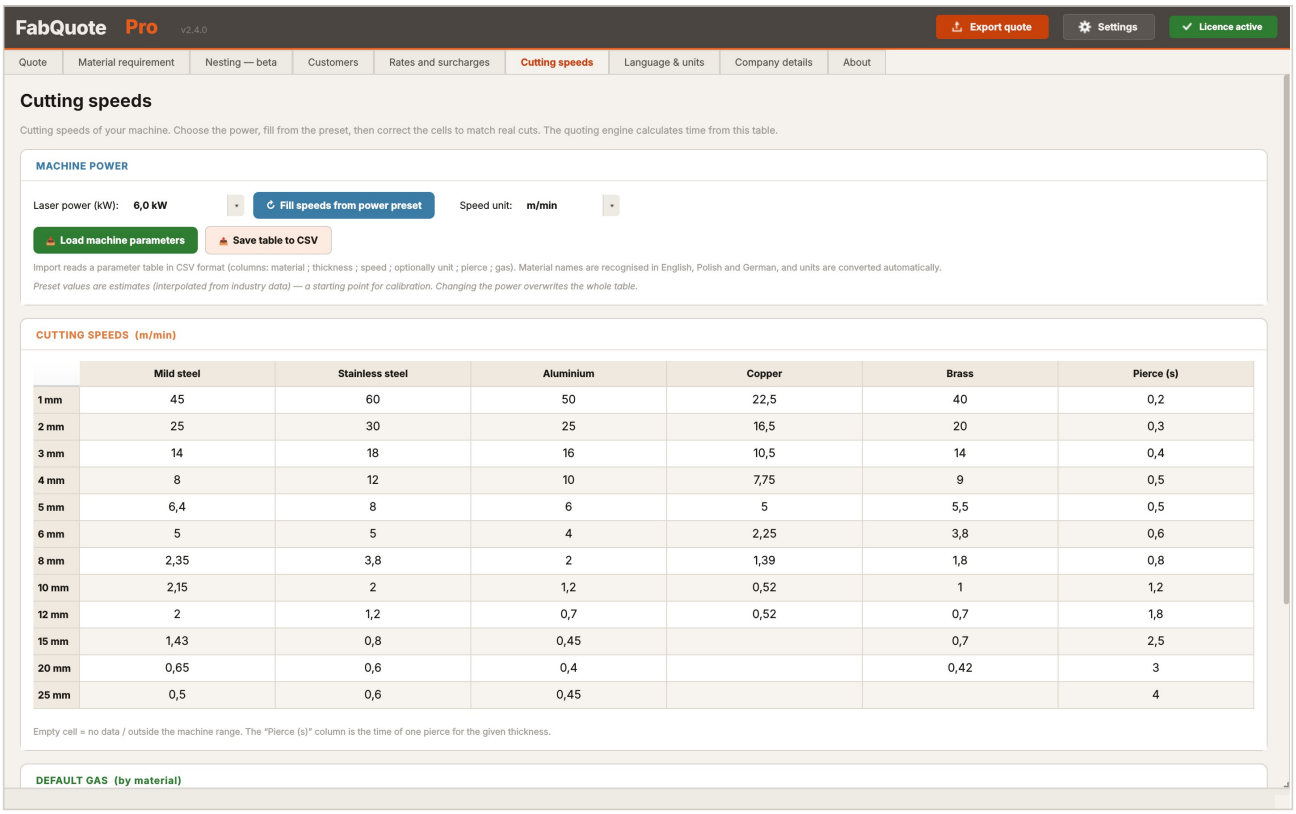
Enter company name, address, VAT ID, phone, e-mail, website and select a logo (PNG/JPG). These appear in the header of every PDF quote. Click **Save company details**.



Company details tab.

4.2 Cutting speeds

1. Choose your machine's **Laser power (kW)** and click **Fill speeds from power preset** — the program enters typical speeds for all materials and thicknesses.
2. Correct the values in the **CUTTING SPEEDS** table to match your machine. The display unit is set in **Speed unit** (the same setting as in the Language & units tab).
3. If you have machine parameters in a CSV file, use **Load machine parameters**. Material names are recognised in Polish, English and German.
4. Set the default gas per material group in **DEFAULT GAS**.
5. Click **Save speed table**. **Save table to CSV** exports the table as a backup or for another computer.

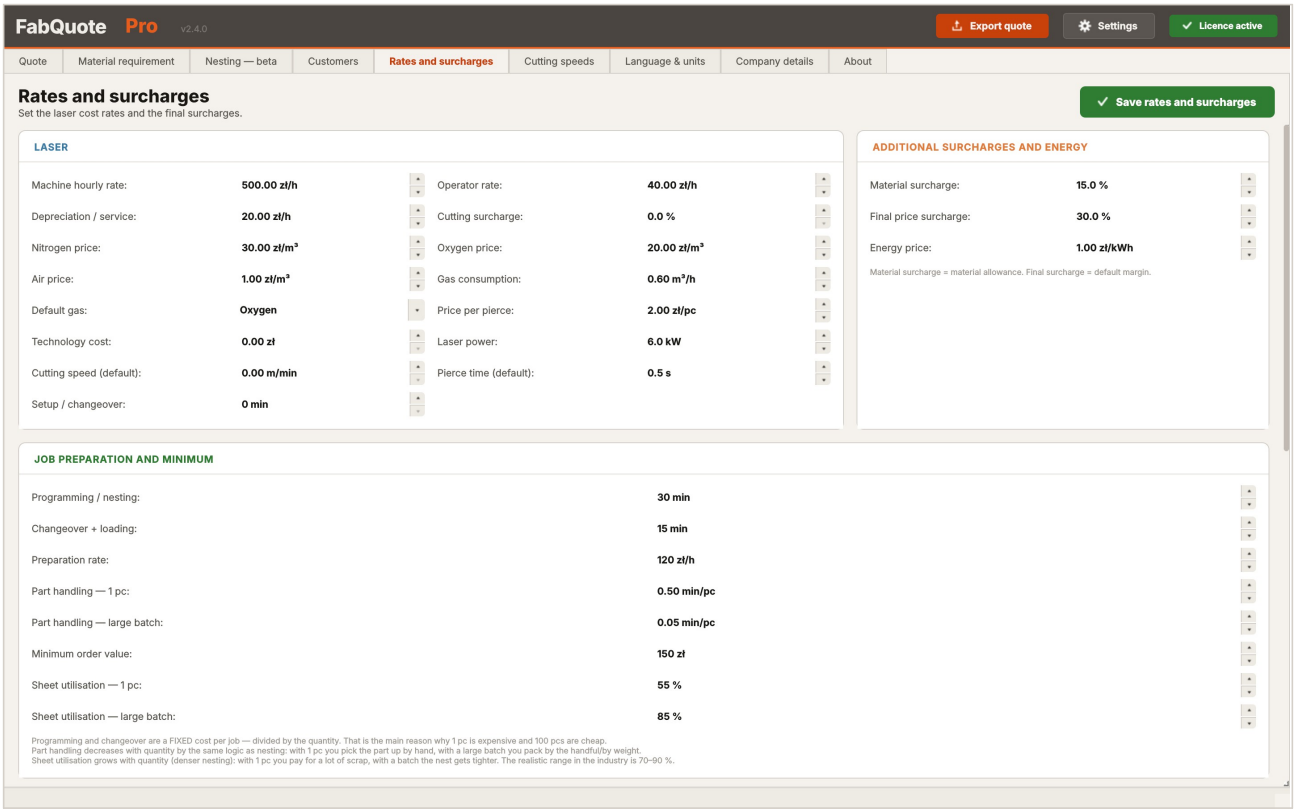


	Mild steel	Stainless steel	Aluminium	Copper	Brass	Pierce (s)
1 mm	45	60	50	22,5	40	0,2
2 mm	25	30	25	16,5	20	0,3
3 mm	14	18	16	10,5	14	0,4
4 mm	8	12	10	7,75	9	0,5
5 mm	6,4	8	6	5	5,5	0,5
6 mm	5	5	4	2,25	3,8	0,6
8 mm	2,35	3,8	2	1,39	1,8	0,8
10 mm	2,15	2	1,2	0,52	1	1,2
12 mm	2	1,2	0,7	0,52	0,7	1,8
15 mm	1,43	0,8	0,45		0,7	2,5
20 mm	0,65	0,6	0,4		0,42	3
25 mm	0,5	0,6	0,45			4

Cutting speeds tab — power preset and speed table.

> Quote accuracy depends mainly on this table. It is worth comparing a few calculated times with real cutting times on your machine.

4.3 Rates and surcharges



Rates and surcharges tab.

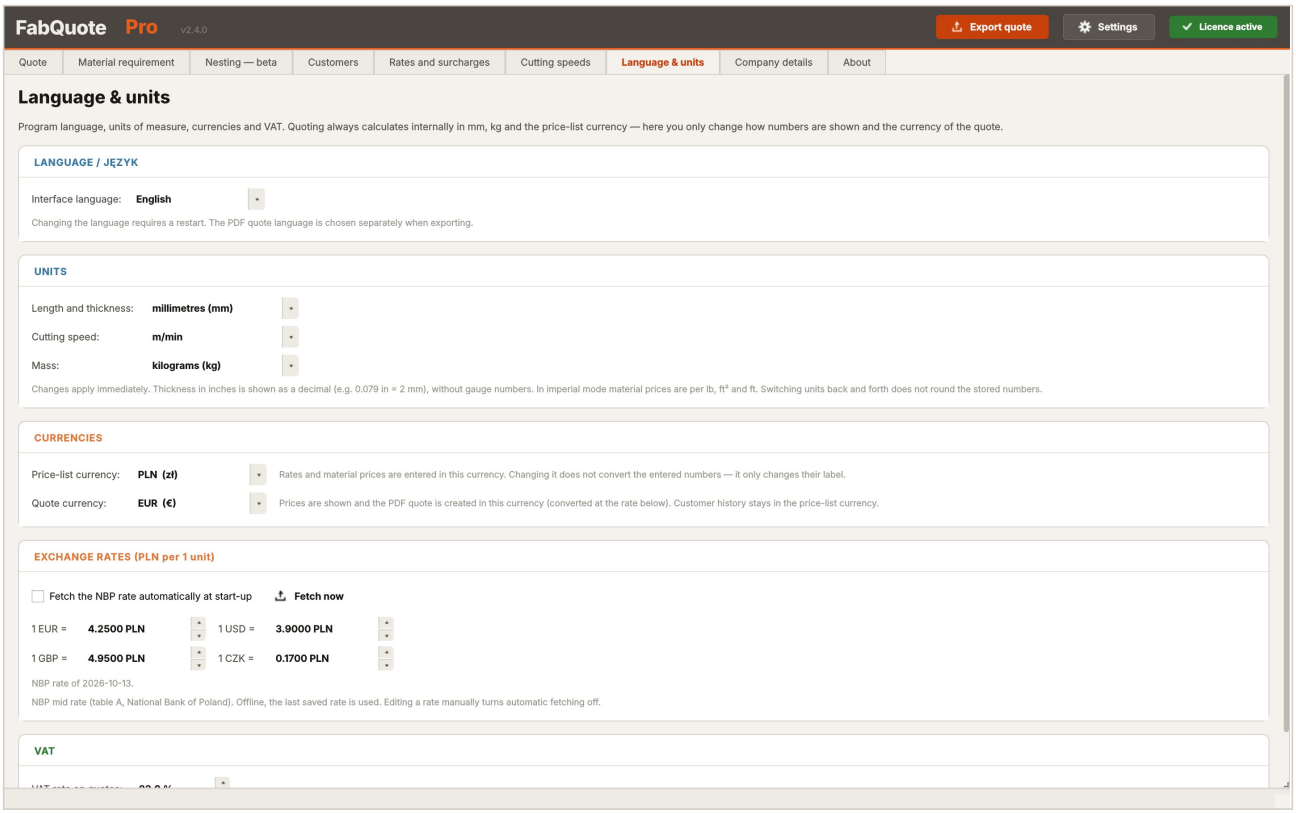
Card	What you set
LASER	Machine hourly rate, operator rate, depreciation/service, cutting surcharge, gas prices (nitrogen, oxygen, air), gas consumption, default gas, price per pierce, technology cost, defaults for power, speed, pierce time and setup.
ADDITIONAL SURCHARGES AND ENERGY	Material surcharge (allowance), final surcharge (default margin), energy price per kWh.
JOB PREPARATION AND MINIMUM	Programming/nesting time, changeover and loading time, preparation rate, part handling time (single part and large batch), minimum order value, sheet utilisation (single part and large batch).
METHOD B — CUTTING RATES	Thickness → price per metre table (**Add row** / **Delete selected**).
MATERIAL PRICES	Price per kg (or per lb — chapter 5) for each material.
SECONDARY OPERATIONS — RATES	Bending (per bend + setup), tapping (per hole), welding (per cm, per spot), painting (per m², minimum).

All amounts are entered in the **price-list currency** (PLN by default — chapter 5). Click **Save rates and surcharges**. Changes apply immediately to the current quote.

> Job preparation costs are divided by the quantity, and sheet utilisation improves with batch size. That is why one part costs noticeably more per piece than a hundred — just like in real production.

5. Language, units and currencies

The **Language & units** tab holds the regional settings. Unit and currency changes apply immediately and are saved automatically.



Language & units tab.

5.1 Program language

In the **LANGUAGE / JĘZYK** card choose the **Interface language**: English or polski. A language change needs a restart — the program shows a **Restart now** button. The current quote is not kept, so export any quote in progress first.

> The program language and the quote language are two separate settings. You can work in English and still send a Polish customer a quote in Polish (chapter 6, “Exporting the PDF quote”).

5.2 Units

Field	Options
Length and thickness	millimetres (mm) or inches (in). In inches, thickness is shown as a decimal (e.g. 0.079 in = 2 mm), without gauge numbers. Areas and material prices then switch to ft² and ft.
Cutting speed	m/min, mm/s or ipm (in/min).
Mass	kilograms (kg) or pounds (lb) — also applies to material prices (per kg / per lb).

Internally the program always calculates in millimetres, m/min and kilograms — changing a unit only converts what you see. Switching back and forth does not round the stored numbers, and a quote in inches gives exactly the same price as in millimetres.

5.3 Currencies

Field	Meaning
Price-list currency	The currency in which you enter rates and material prices (PLN by default). Changing it **does not convert** the entered numbers — it only changes their label. Set it once, to the currency your price list is really in.
Quote currency	The currency in which the program shows prices and issues the PDF quote: PLN, EUR, USD, GBP or CZK. Prices are converted at the rate from the **EXCHANGE RATES** card. The same field sits under the positions table in the Quote tab.

5.4 NBP exchange rates

- The **EXCHANGE RATES (PLN per 1 unit)** card shows the EUR, USD, GBP and CZK rates.
- **Fetch the NBP rate automatically at start-up** downloads the NBP average rates (table A) every time the program starts. **Fetch now** does it immediately.
- You can also type a rate by hand — the program stores it with today's date and switches automatic fetching off (switch it back on with the same option).
- When the quote currency differs from the price-list currency, the PDF footer shows the rate used, e.g. **“NBP exchange rate of 2026-10-12: 1 EUR = 4.2712 PLN”**.

> Without internet the program uses the last saved rates, and on the very first start — indicative rates (message: “Indicative rates — the NBP rate has not been fetched yet”). Check the rate date before sending a quote in a foreign currency.

5.5 VAT

VAT rate on quotes (23 % by default) determines the gross amount in the program and on the PDF. For an EU customer under the reverse-charge scheme tick **0 % VAT (reverse charge)** in the Quote tab — see chapter 6.

5.6 Number and amount format

Amounts follow the language: in English **€1,234.56**, in Polish **1 234,56 €**. The Czech koruna is always written as **1 234,56 Kč**.

6. Creating a quote step by step

The left column of the **Quote** tab has three numbered blocks. The right column shows the drawing preview, the quote table and the export button.

Block 1 · Load drawing

- **DXF** — drag one or more files onto **Drag DXF file(s) here** or click **Choose DXF**. The program measures cutting length, number of contours (pierces) and part size.
- **Machine PDF** — reads the PDF report from your machine software and takes thickness, sheet size, cutting length and process time from it.
- **Part photo** — the photo import window detects contours. Enter the **Real dimension** (width or height of the part) so the scale is correct.

The line below the buttons shows what has been loaded. Pierces are counted from closed contours — a hole built from several lines and arcs counts as one pierce.

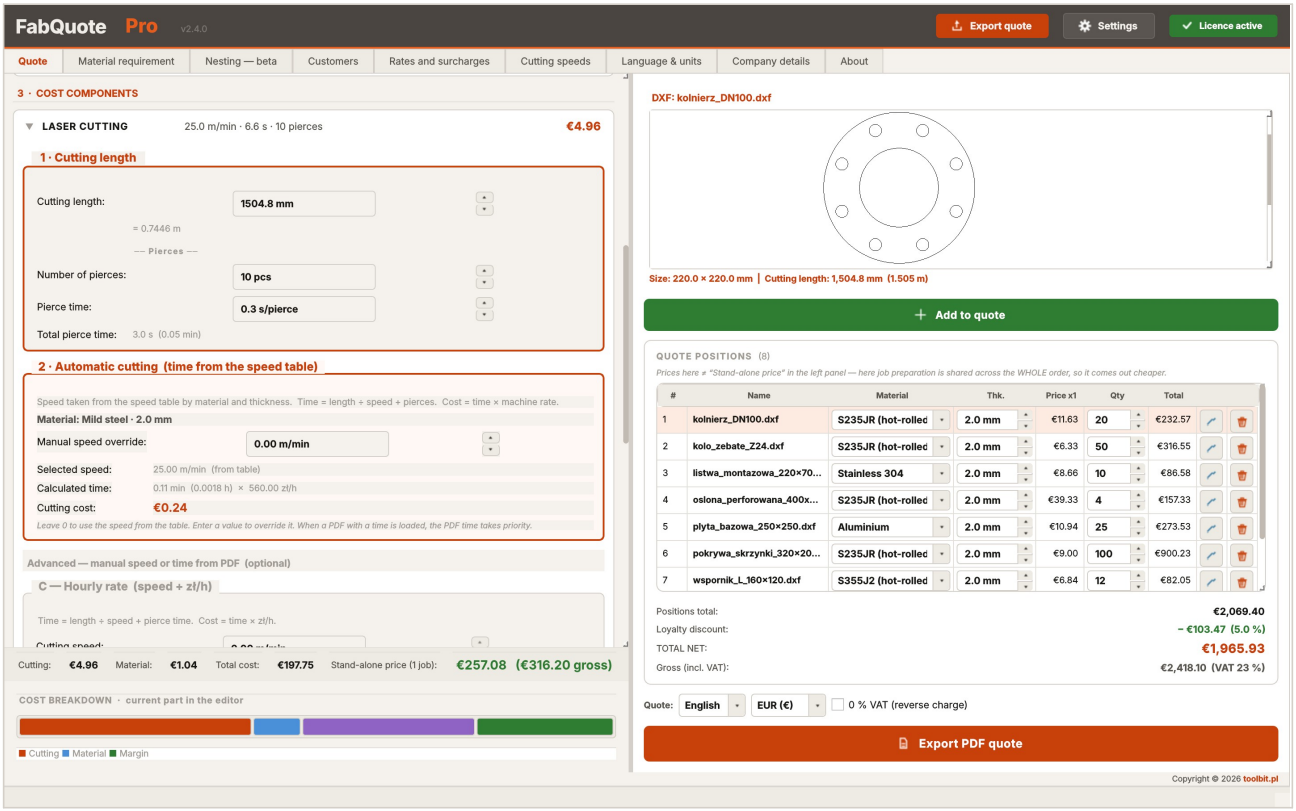
> DXF drawings are always read in millimetres — that is how laser CAD/CAM software writes them. The inch setting only changes how values are displayed.

Block 2 · Customer

- **Customer / job** — type a name or pick one suggested from the database. For a known customer the discount is shown below. **+ New** adds the typed customer to the database.
- **Margin** — margin for this quote (the default is the final surcharge in Rates).
- **Job number**, **Date**, **Note** — printed on the PDF and used in the file name.

Block 3 · Cost components

Collapsible cards — click a header to expand it and adjust details.



The LASER CUTTING card expanded.

Card	Contents
LASER CUTTING	**1 · Cutting length**, number and time of pierces. **2 · Automatic cutting** — speed from the cutting speed table for the material and thickness (recommended; **Manual speed override** lets you overwrite it). Under **Advanced**: **C** (speed + hourly rate) and **D** (time from PDF × hourly rate). Consumables — gas, energy, setup — are always added.
MATERIAL	Material preset, thickness, **Quantity**, density, part dimensions, area basis (**Bounding box** or **Actual contour**), sheet size, price per m² *or* per kg, scrap allowance.
SECONDARY OPERATIONS	Tick what is needed: bending (number of bends), tapping (number of holes), welding (seam in cm or spots), painting (coating type, area), other (description + amount per part).
JOB PREPARATION	Preview of fixed job costs — edit them in Rates.

The bar at the bottom of the left column shows current costs, the **stand-alone price** (the price of this part if it were the only job) and a percentage breakdown.

Adding positions and the quote table

1. When the part is set up, click the green **Add to quote** button. The position appears in the **QUOTE POSITIONS** table. Several DXF files dropped at once go straight into the table.
2. Load the next file and repeat — one order can contain many positions.
3. Thickness, material and quantity can be changed directly in the table row; the price updates immediately.
4. Clicking a row shows its drawing in the preview. The pencil icon opens the position for editing (including secondary operations) — the green button then reads **Save changes** and **Cancel editing** cancels. The bin icon deletes the position.

> Job preparation and the minimum order value are charged **once per order**, not per position — several files from one customer share one machine setup. That is why the prices in the table are usually lower than the stand-alone price in the left column.

Exporting the PDF quote

Under the positions table the **Quote** row sets how the quote for this customer looks:

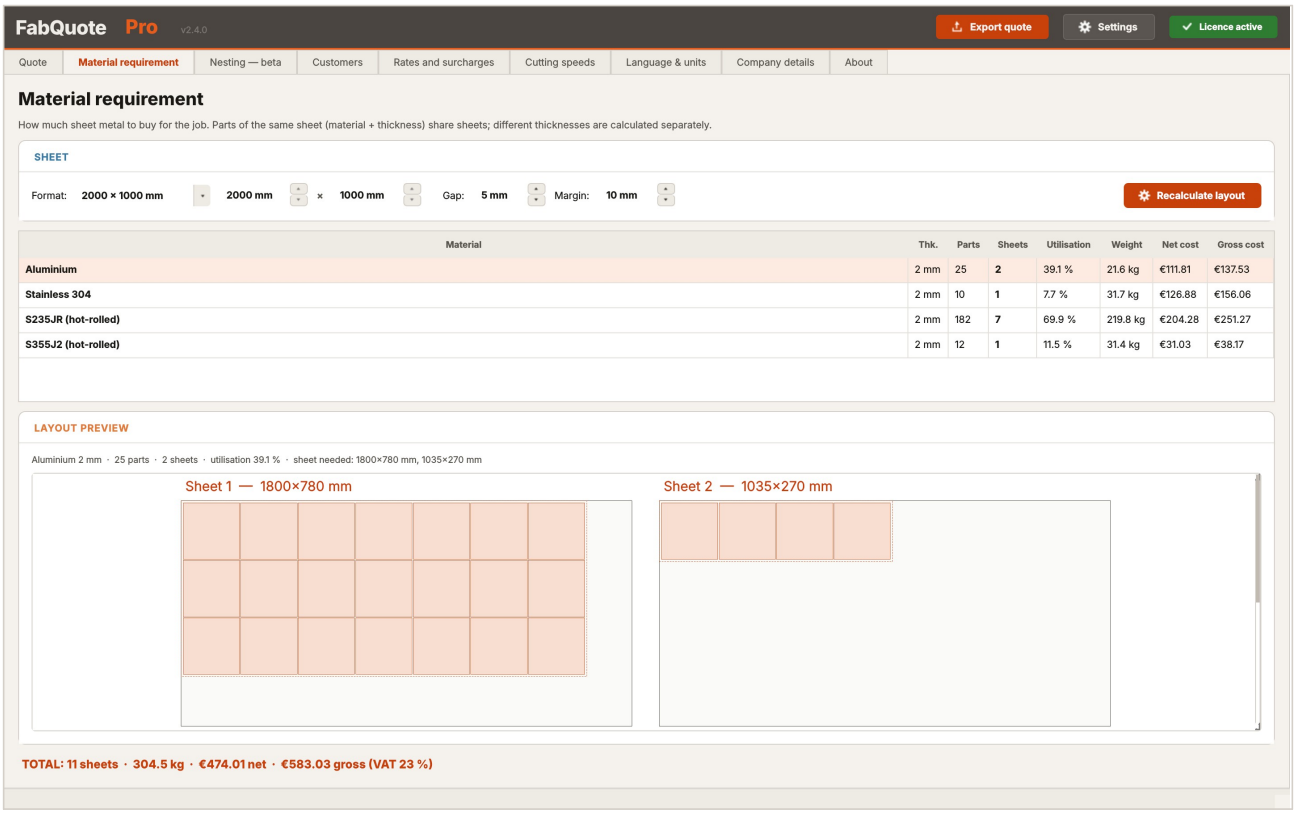
Field	Effect
Quote language (English / Polski)	Language of the whole PDF: headings, table, footer, material names, “VAT ID”. Independent of the program language.
Currency (PLN, EUR, USD, GBP, CZK)	Currency of the prices on the quote and in the program. If it differs from the price-list currency, the PDF footer states the rate and its date.
0 % VAT (reverse charge)	Quote without VAT, with the note “Reverse charge — VAT to be accounted for by the customer (Art. 196 of Directive 2006/112/EC)”. The VAT rate in the settings stays unchanged.

Click **Export PDF quote** (or **Export quote** in the top bar). If the quote table has positions, the PDF covers the whole order; if it is empty, it covers the current part. Files are saved by default in the **Wyceny** folder as **quote_job-number_date.pdf** (a Polish quote: **wycena_…**). Dimensions on the quote use the units set in the program.

> In the trial every PDF page carries the watermark **“DEMO VERSION — FabQuote Pro”** (on a Polish quote: “WERSJA DEMO”). It disappears after licence activation.

7. Material requirement

The **Material requirement** tab groups quote positions by material and thickness and nests each group on sheets — showing how many sheets you actually need to buy and what they cost.



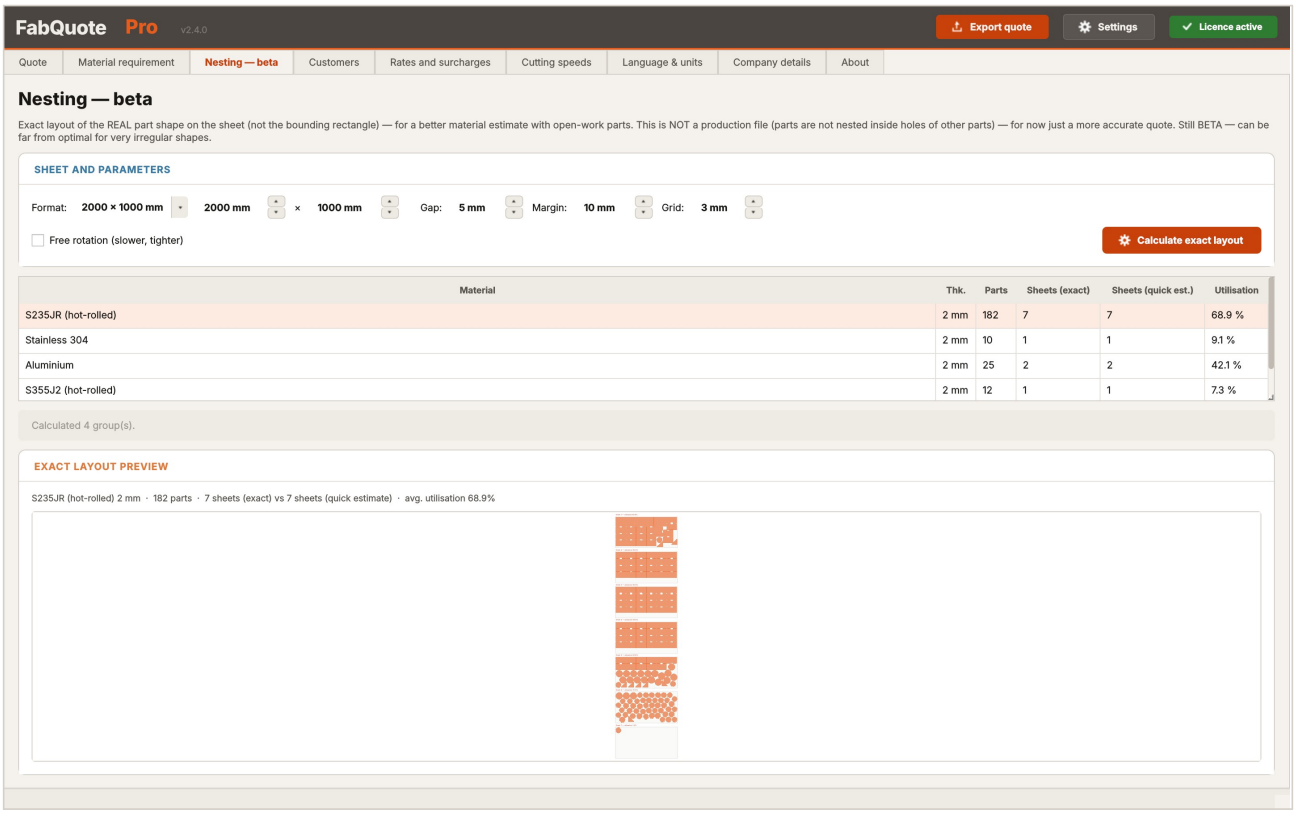
Material requirement tab with layout preview.

1. In the **SHEET** card set **Format** (sheet size), **Gap** (between parts) and **Margin**.
2. Click **Recalculate layout**; the list also refreshes when the quote changes.
3. Click a table row to see the layout in **LAYOUT PREVIEW**.

> This result may differ from the sheet utilisation used in the price: the quote uses a statistical utilisation curve, this tab uses the physical layout. One number is for pricing, the other for ordering material.

8. Nesting — beta

Exact nesting of real part shapes (not rectangles) for positions loaded from DXF. Positions from photos or PDFs are skipped because they have no vector outline.

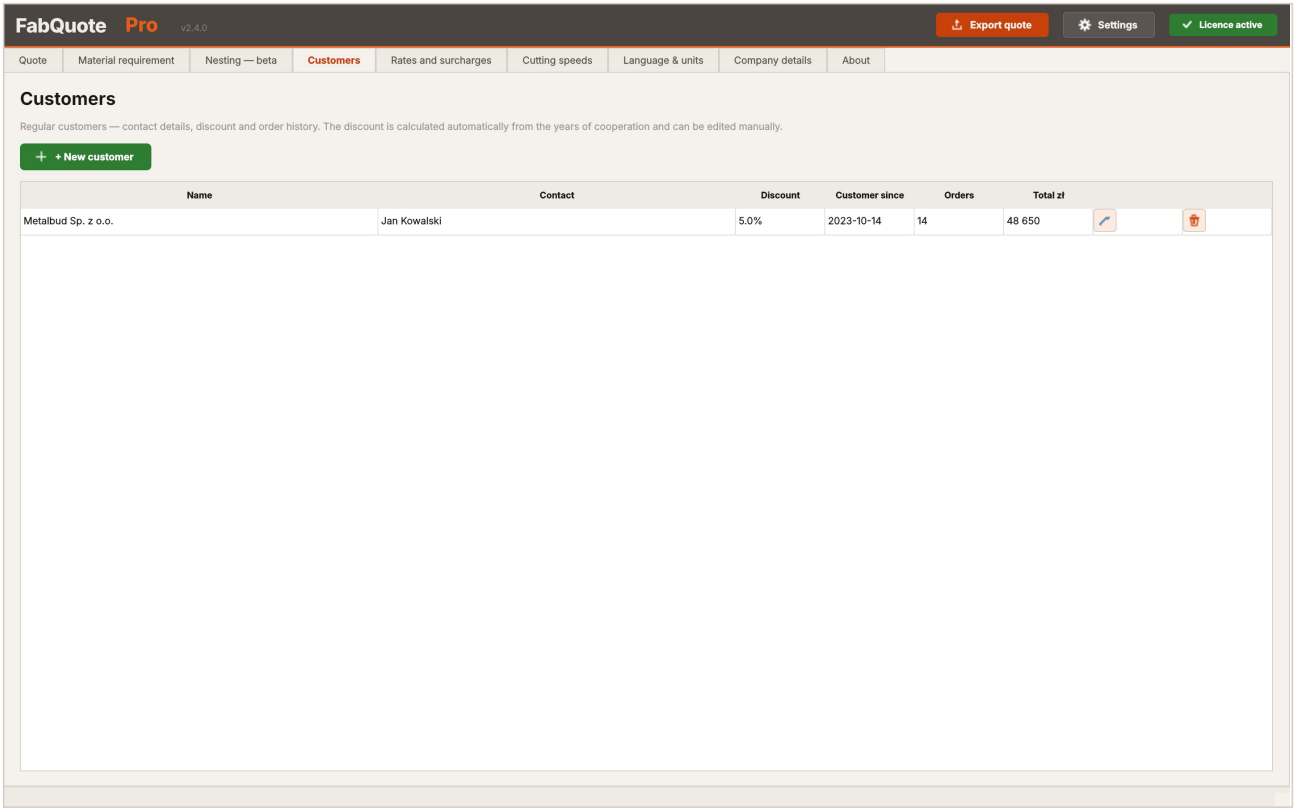


Nesting — beta tab.

1. In **SHEET AND PARAMETERS** set the sheet and the **Grid** (smaller is more precise but slower).
2. **Free rotation** packs parts tighter at the cost of calculation time.
3. Click **Calculate exact layout**, then a table row to see the layout.

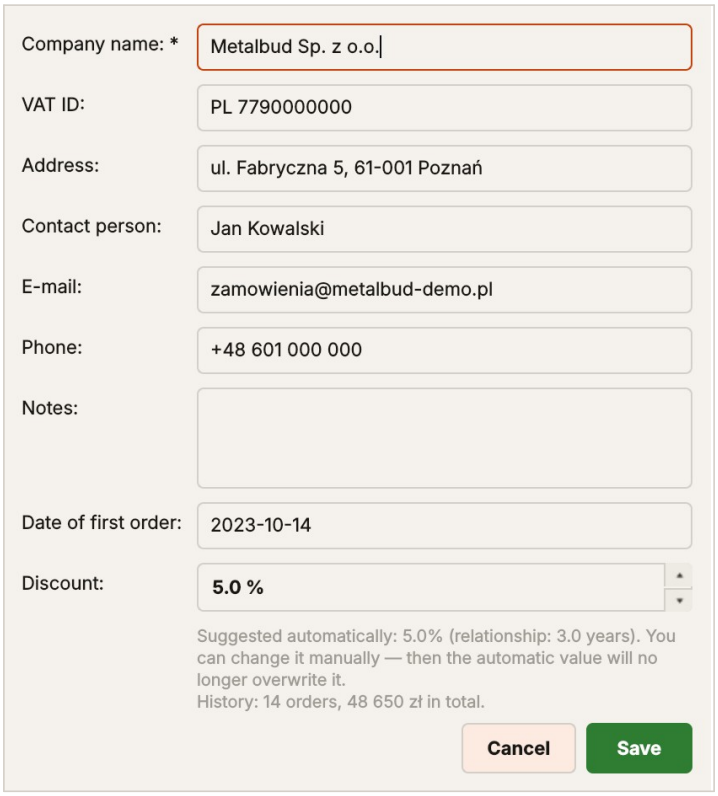
This is a beta feature — it is slower than the Material requirement tab and runs on demand.

9. Customers



Customers tab.

+ New customer opens a form: company name (required), VAT ID, address, contact person, e-mail, phone, notes, **Date of first order** and **Discount**.



Customer form.

The program suggests a loyalty discount based on how long you have worked together:

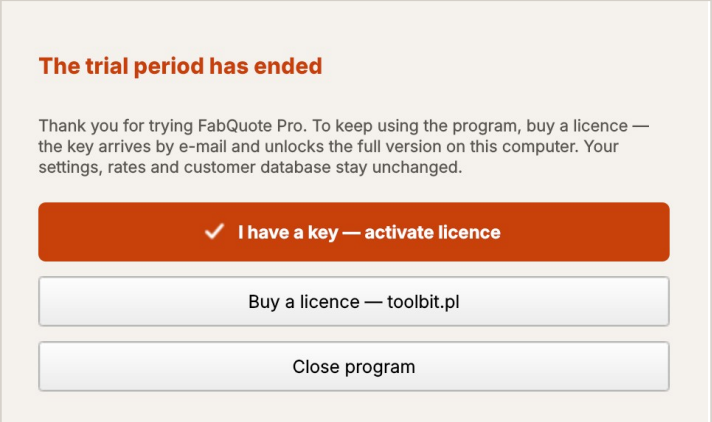
Relationship	Suggested discount
under 1 year	0%
from 1 year	3%
from 2 years	5%
from 4 years	8%

You can type the discount manually — the program will then keep your value. Picking a database customer in block 2 of the Quote tab applies their discount to the prices.

10. Licence, trial and updates

Trial

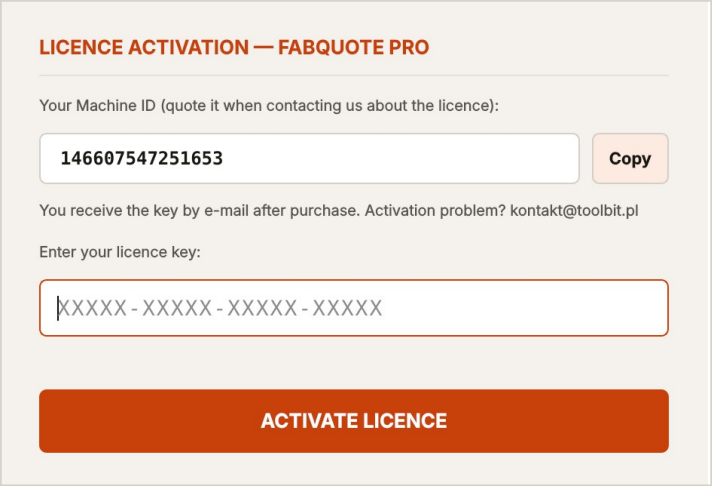
- 14 days of full functionality, counted on the server for the given computer.
- PDF quotes carry the “DEMO VERSION” watermark.
- When the trial ends, the program shows a start-up window with: **I have a key — activate licence**, **Buy a licence** or **Close program**. Your settings, rates and customer database are kept.



The window shown when the trial has ended.

Activating a key

1. Buy a licence at **toolbit.pl/fabquote** — the key is sent by e-mail.
2. Click the licence button in the top bar (or **I have a key** in the start-up window).
3. Paste the key and confirm; the computer must be online. The button then reads **Licence active** and PDFs no longer have a watermark.

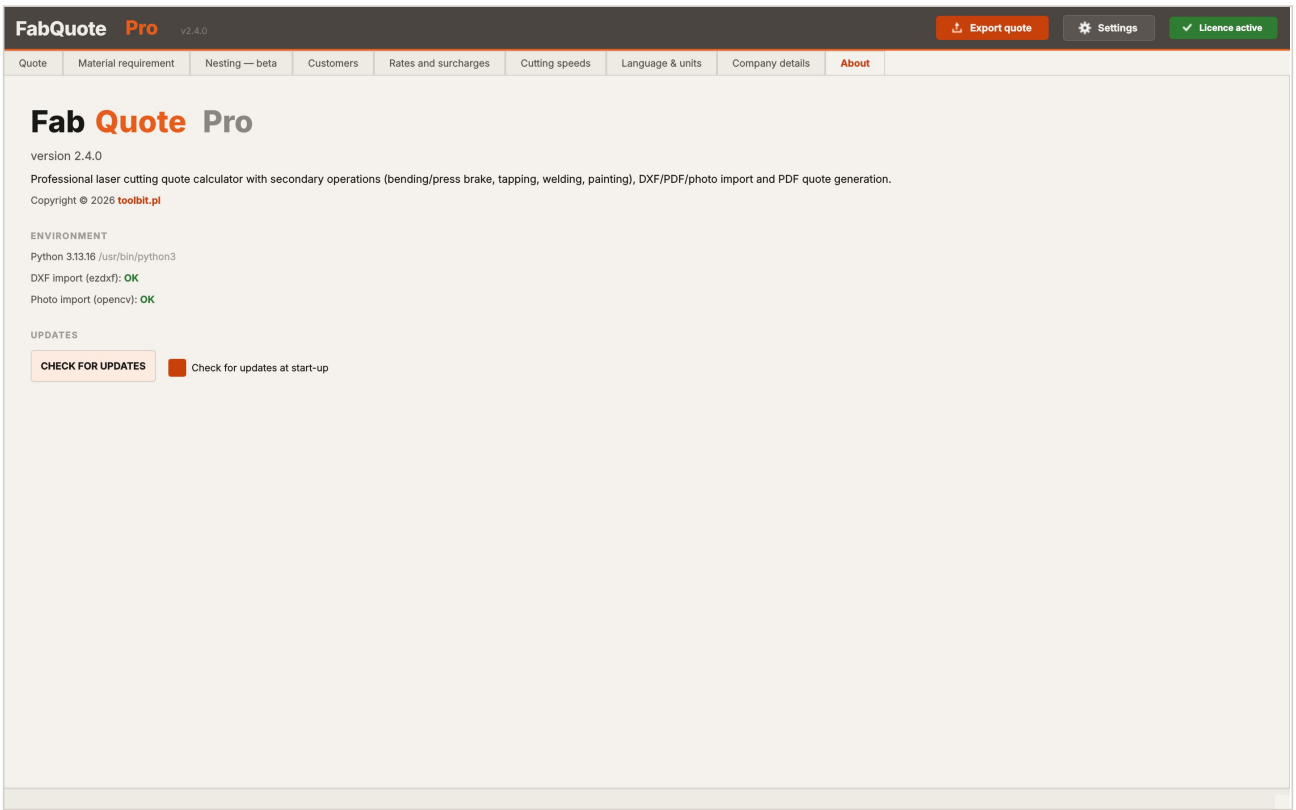


Licence activation window.

One licence works on one computer. When changing computers, write to **kontakt@toolbit.pl** and the licence will be transferred.

Updates

The program checks for new versions by itself and shows the list of changes. Check manually in the **About** tab, where automatic checking can also be switched on or off. Unzip a new version into the same folder, replacing the EXE — your settings are kept.



About tab.

11. Troubleshooting

Message / symptom	What to do
“First launch requires an internet connection”	Connect to the internet and start again, or enter a licence key.
“The trial does not run in a virtual machine”	Run the program on a physical computer or activate a licence.
“Too many trials from this network”	Try again the next day or activate a licence.
Settings are not saved	The program is in a read-only folder (e.g. Program Files) — move the whole folder, e.g. to C:\FabQuote.
The NBP rate is not fetched	Check the internet connection and click **Fetch now** in the Language & units tab. If needed, type the rate by hand.
The program is in Polish and you want English	Tab **Język i jednostki** → **Język interfejsu**: English → **Uruchom ponownie teraz** (restart now).
The **Part photo** button is disabled	Hover over it — the tooltip shows the reason. Most often the Visual C++ Redistributable is missing in Windows.
Odd cutting length or pierce count from DXF	Check that contours are closed and there are no duplicate lines. If it persists, send the DXF to kontakt@toolbit.pl.
Key does not work	Make sure the key was bought for FabQuote Pro and is not already used on another computer. Write to kontakt@toolbit.pl.

When reporting a problem, attach **fabquote_log.txt** from the program folder.