

# Qualification Testing and the Benefits of Engaging Early

---

**Chris Stone**  
Operations Manager Dynamic Test

# AGENDA

A solid blue horizontal bar with a white shadow on its right side, serving as a bullet point for the first agenda item.

Qualification – It's not just about a certificate

A solid blue horizontal bar with a white shadow on its right side, serving as a bullet point for the second agenda item.

Product Life Cycle – Know Your Enemy

A solid blue horizontal bar with a white shadow on its right side, serving as a bullet point for the third agenda item.

Proving the Design – Confidence Testing

A solid blue horizontal bar with a white shadow on its right side, serving as a bullet point for the fourth agenda item.

Qualification Testing - Preparation

A solid blue horizontal bar with a white shadow on its right side, serving as a bullet point for the fifth agenda item.

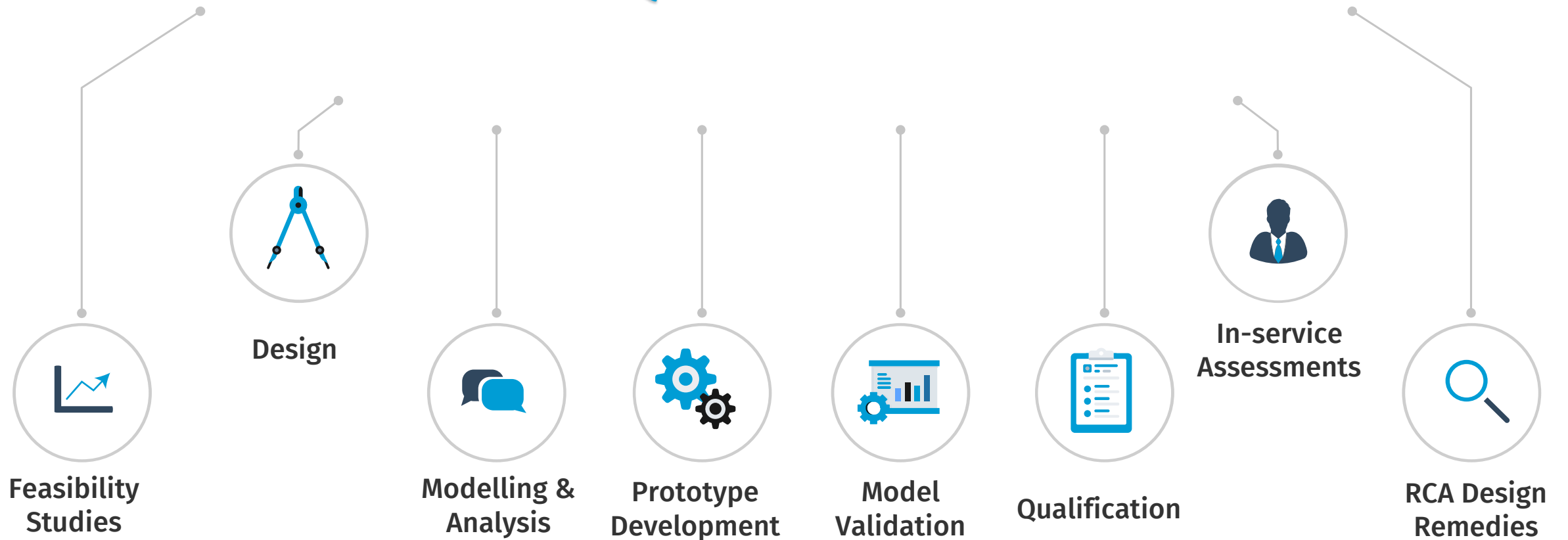
Final Thoughts

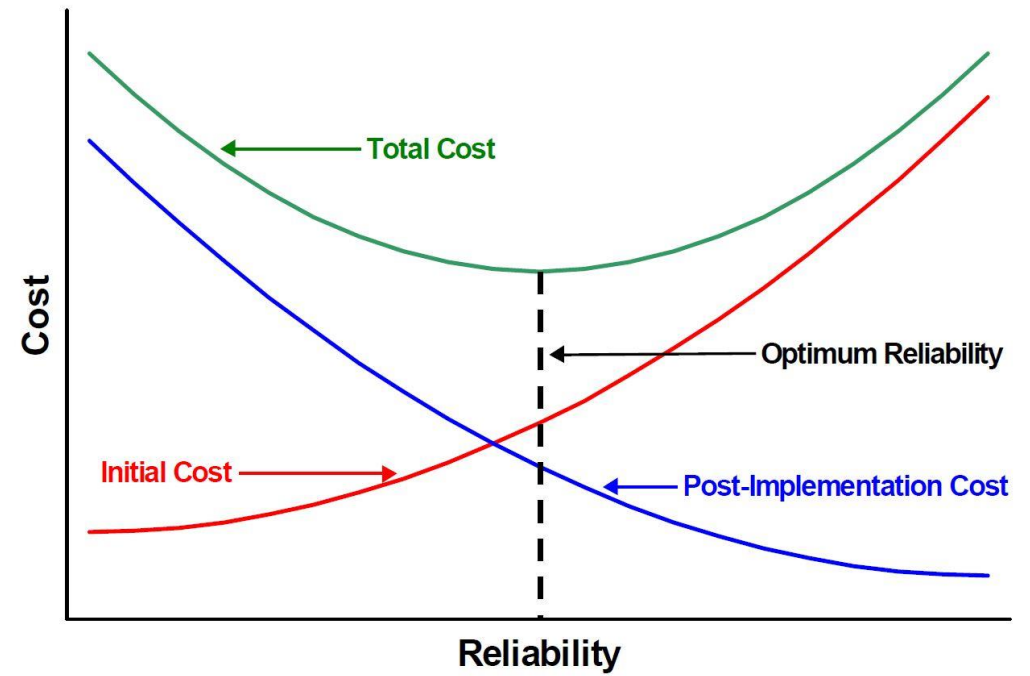
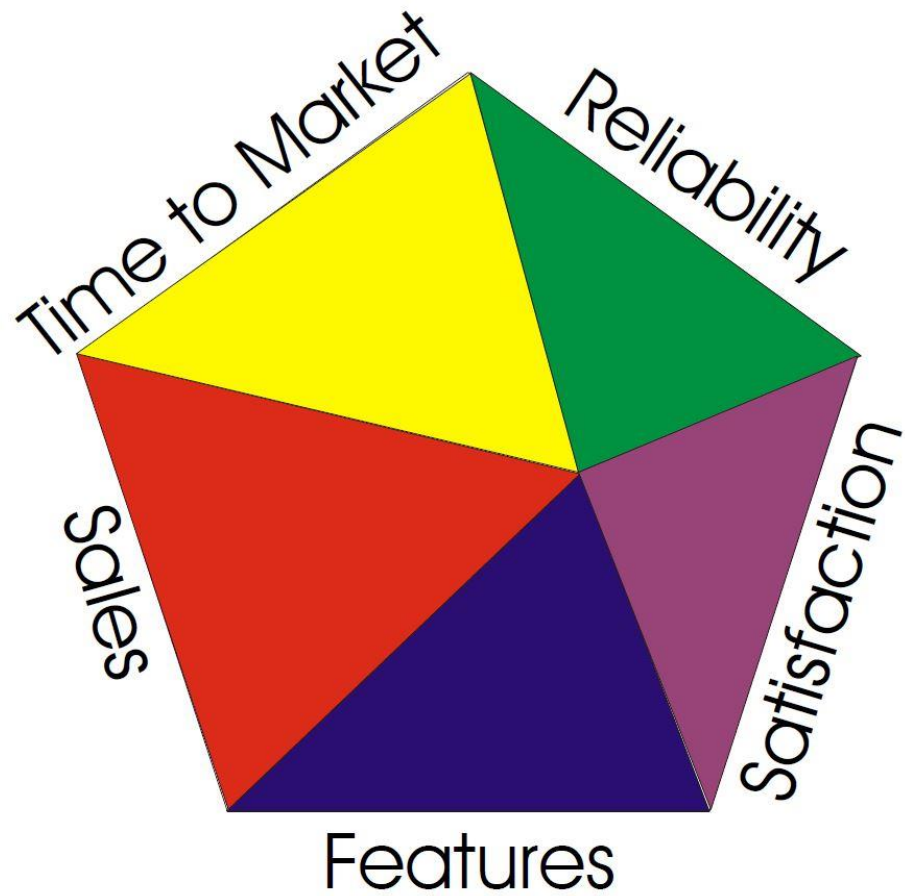
# SLEEPER CARRIAGE – SYMPTOM OR CAUSE



# Holistic Process

## Qualification







# Qualification Testing

**- it's about using the appropriate engineering tools to understand and combat the combination of stresses that your product will see during its life**

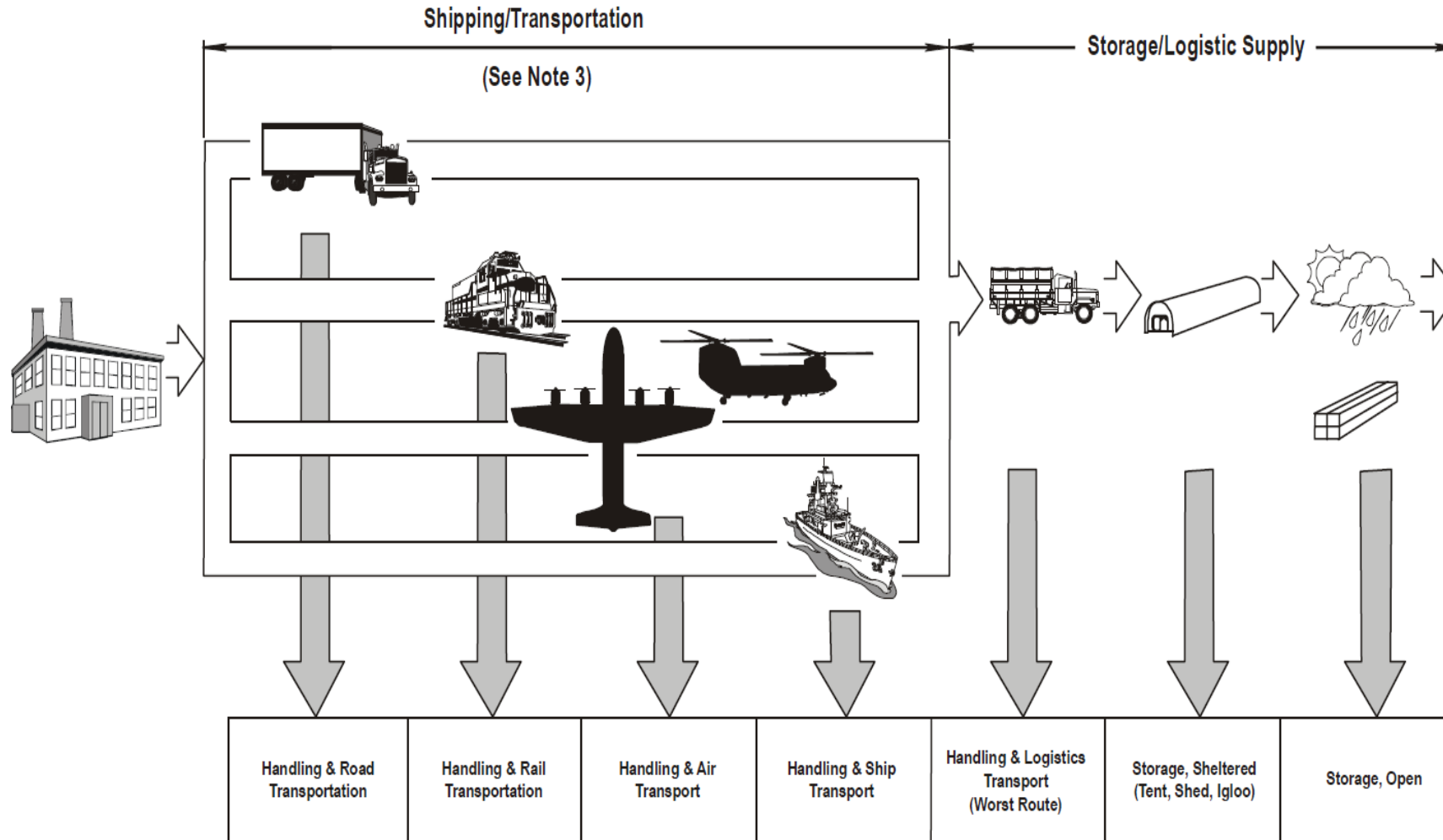


# Product Life Cycle – Know your Enemy

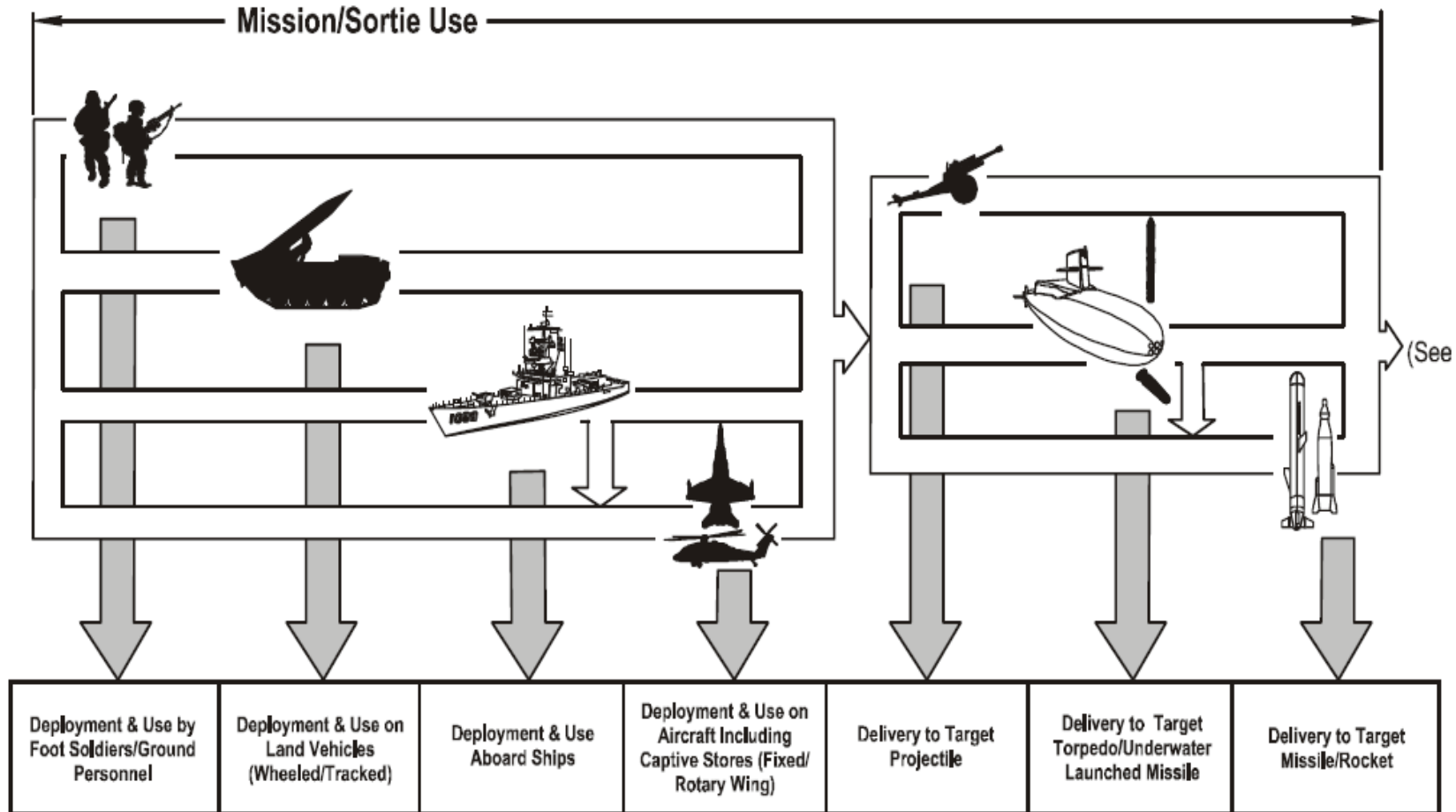




# Product Life Cycle – Before Use



# Product Life Cycle



# Which Test Standard?



# Tailored **versus** Standard?



## Standard Tests - Pros

- ❖ Understood by customers and therefore have a wide acceptance
- ❖ Quick and easy to use
- ❖ Cheap – just find correct severities and go test

## Standard Tests - Cons

- ❖ Can be very old / historic and don't relate to modern platforms / sources of vibration
- ❖ Generally very bad for test items with non-linear behaviour – combine too many vibration sources and are extreme and over-accelerated.

## Tailored Tests - Cons

- ❖ Require time and intellect to determine life
- ❖ Time and expense to measure all real life events
- ❖ Time and expense to analyse measurements and determine test severities / levels
- ❖ Require co-operation of customers and therefore require time and effort to gain acceptance.

## Tailored Tests - Pros

- ❖ Very relevant with specific platforms / environments
- ❖ Can be tuned so that they better reflect the distribution of real life stresses – far better for test items with non-linear behaviour
- ❖ Reduces margin of over-engineering

# Tailored **versus** Standard



## General Advice

- ❖ Always be careful with standard tests with products with non-linear behaviour as test levels increase (investigate non-linearity!!)
- ❖ Always consider measuring **your OPERATING ENVIRONMENT – DO NOT RELY** on the standards
- ❖ Take care with Combined Transportation Standards, OK for low risk test items
- ❖ All tests have been accelerated and have margins built into them.

# Product Life Cycle - Solar Powered HGV Trailer Tracking Device



- ❖ Bench handling during assembly
- ❖ Transport and Storage
- ❖ Handling/pre-load during installation
- ❖ Combined vibration/temperature
- ❖ Mechanical Shock
- ❖ Solar heating
- ❖ Driving rain
- ❖ Thermal cycling

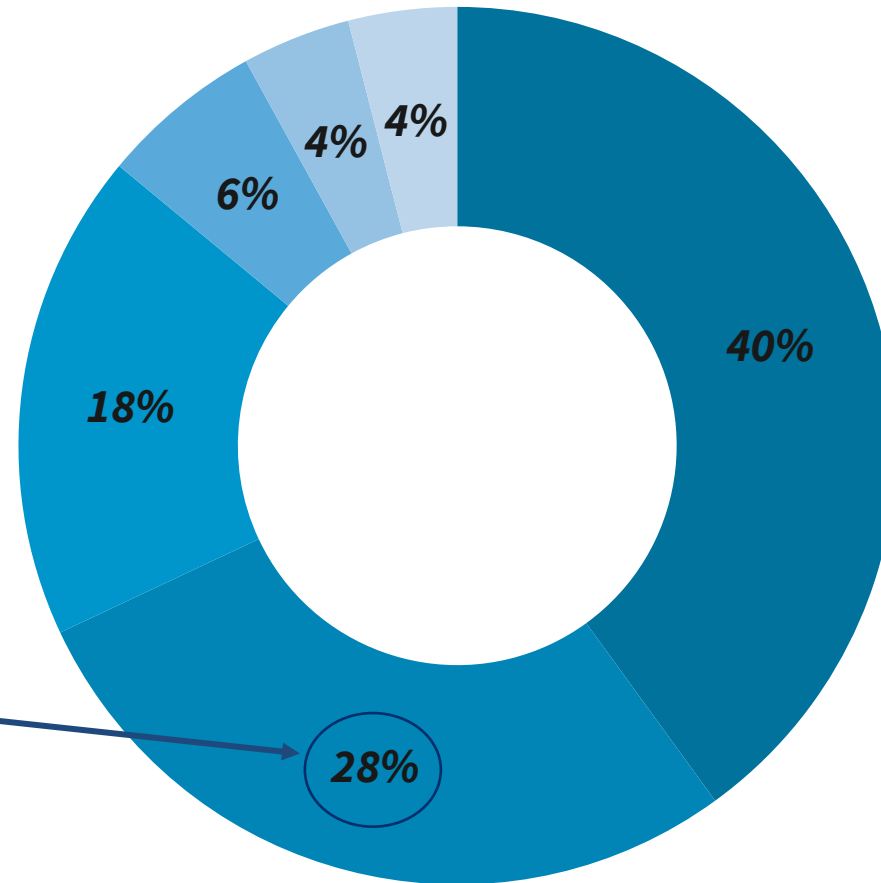
**On top of this - demonstrate Functional  
Reliability**



# Confidence Testing – try things first



Typical environmental factors that cause products to fail from infancy to end of life



- Temperature
- Vibration
- Humidity
- Sand and Dust
- Salt
- Other

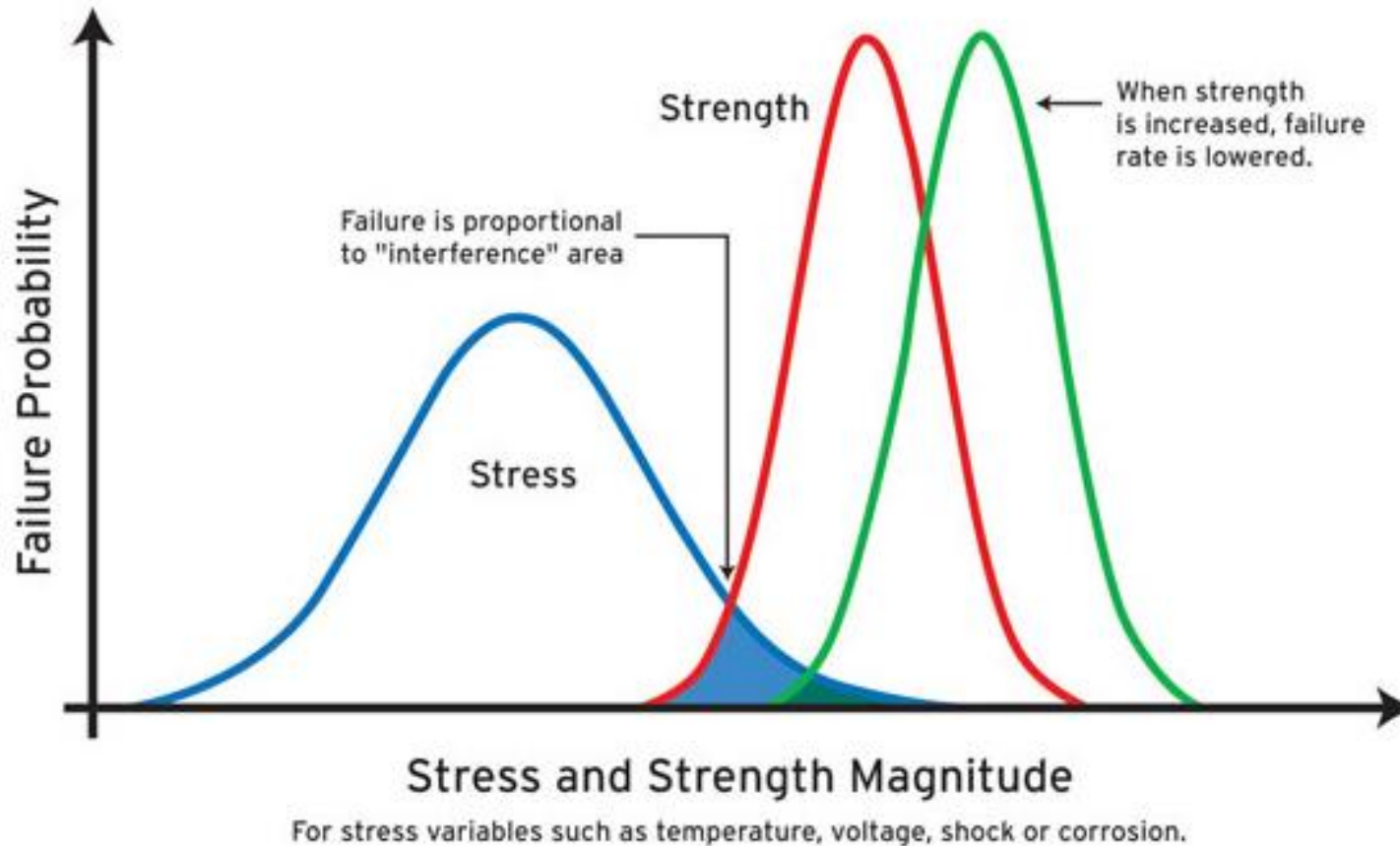
Vibration is the hardest to design for and to try in the factory





# “Strengthening” the Product

## The Real Environmental and Product Resistance



# Test Plan – The Key to the Best Outcome



- ❖ Standards mandate or recommend a Test Plan
- ❖ Write it yourself or get a Test House to produce it – either way liaise
- ❖ Involve all stakeholders, including the customer/Design Authority
- ❖ Define pass/fail criteria
- ❖ Detail all of the required functional aspects of the test item
- ❖ Detail represent in-service boundary conditions
- ❖ Detail all utilities and support equipment required for functional testing
- ❖ Reference the applicable Test Standards and ensure severities are defined
- ❖ Detail all tests, including confidence testing
- ❖ Include any measurement tolerances that are not specified in the standards
- ❖ Include a test and inspection log and/or results reporting forms

**Ideally, Qualification Testing should be quoted against a Test Plan  
Testing should only commence once the Test Plan has been approved**

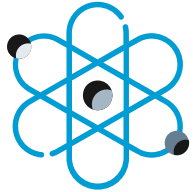
# Test Readiness Review



## Prior to travelling to the test house.....

- ❖ Ensure that the Test Plan is approved and has been issued to the test house
- ❖ Configure the test item and demonstrate full functional test setup, check cable lengths
- ❖ Fixturing and mounting fasteners
- ❖ Deliver the test item early – fit check against the fixture ahead of testing
- ❖ At the test laboratory use the Test Plan to inform all actions

# Final Thoughts - Communication



Understand the environment and identify the qualification testing that you require from your product  
– communicate with the test house



Foster a culture of “Reliability” in your Organisation.  
Involve all personnel in the process and encourage feedback from design through commissioning to maintenance



Magnify the consequences of failure/poor reliability

**Q&A**

 element



