

“Good FMEAs, Bad FMEAs, What’s the Difference?”

Carl S. Carlson, Consultant and instructor / GM Retiree

Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) can anticipate and prevent problems, reduce costs, shorten product development times, and achieve safe and highly reliable products and processes. Stated simply, FMEA is an essential element in achieving reliability objectives for any project or program. However, it has to be done correctly: performed on the correct parts, by the correct team, during the correct timeframe, with the correct procedure. Frankly, there are mixed results with FMEA applications. Consider these questions: Why is there so much variation in the application of a tool that has been around for many decades? What can be done to help achieve more uniformly successful results? This interactive presentation will teach how to differentiate between high-quality and poor-quality FMEAs.

Speaker Biography



Carl S. Carlson is a consultant and instructor in the areas of FMEA and reliability program planning, with 35 years of experience in quality and reliability engineering and management positions, supporting clients from a wide cross-section of industries. He has authored over 100 technical papers and articles on quality and reliability subjects, and regularly teaches courses and tutorials to industry professionals. Prior positions include senior consultant for ReliaSoft, and senior manager for Advanced Reliability Group at General Motors. At GM, his responsibilities included FMEAs for North American operations, developing and implementing advanced reliability methods, and managing teams of reliability engineers. Mr. Carlson co-chaired the cross-industry team that developed the commercial FMEA standard (SAE J1739, 2002 version), served for five years as Vice Chair for SAE's G-11 Reliability Division, and was four-year member of RAMS Advisory Board. He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from University of Michigan, Senior Member of ASQ, and Certified Reliability Engineer. His book, *Effective FMEAs*, was published in 2012 by John Wiley & Sons.