QUALITY EXCELLENCE SERVICES

Quality Excellence Services
18 Maple Avenue, Ste. 148
Barrington, RI 02806
United States of America
+1 (401) 246-3204 · +1 (401) 252-9653
mweeden@qesisbest.com · https://QESisBest.com

STANDARDS & GUIDANCE BRIEF · UNITED STATES · INDUSTRY REFERENCE MANUAL

AIAG-VDA FMEA

Failure Mode and Effects Analysis handbook (Design, Process, and Supplemental FMEA-MSR)

DOCUMENT	QES-WP-127, Rev B	DATE	November 7, 2026
ISSUED BY	AIAG and the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA)	PREPARED BY	Conner Davidson
EDITION	1st edition (2019)	STATUS CHECKED	October 24, 2026
INDUSTRIES	Automotive	ONLINE	qesisbest.com/standard-aiag-vda-fmea.html

CURRENT EDITION It replaced the AIAG FMEA 4th edition and the VDA Volume 4 FMEA chapter with a single harmonized method.

What It Covers

A seven-step method for analyzing how a design or a process can fail, what the effects would be, and what to do about it before the failure reaches a customer.

Who It Applies To

Automotive design and manufacturing organizations, and others that adopt the method, for design FMEA, process FMEA, and monitoring and system response (FMEA-MSR).

Key Requirements

- Seven steps: planning and preparation, structure analysis, function analysis, failure analysis, risk analysis, optimization, and results documentation.
- Action Priority (high, medium, low) in place of the Risk Priority Number for deciding what to act on.
- Severity, occurrence and detection rated on the handbook's tables, with actions assigned to named owners and dates.
- A supplemental FMEA-MSR for diagnostics and system responses in use.

What an Auditor Asks to See

- The PFMEA for a chosen process, read against the process flow and control plan.
- High Action Priority items and the status of their actions.
- How field and customer complaints feed back into the FMEA.

Where Systems Fall Short

- FMEAs written once for the launch and never revisited.
- Detection ratings that credit inspections the control plan does not contain.

How QES helps. FMEA workshops facilitated to the seven-step method, and existing FMEAs migrated from RPN to Action Priority. See the gap assessment: qesisbest.com/services.html#gap-assessment · +1 (401) 246-3204 · mweeden@qesisbest.com

Sources, checked October 24, 2026. AIAG — Automotive Industry Action Group publications — www.aiag.org; VDA QMC — Quality Management Center publications — vda-qmc.de/en.

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