

The Critical Control Program Self-Assessment

Find where your program is most likely to stall.

Critical control programs rarely fail at design. They fail in the running. Rate your program against the three failure modes below — score each statement 0 (rarely), 1 (sometimes) or 2 (consistently). Your lowest-scoring block is where to start.

THE THREE FAILURE MODES

1 — Performance standard quality gap

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- Every critical control has a performance standard that states what it must do and how well, in measurable terms.
- Standards define the object and the act — functionality, availability, reliability, survivability — and who is accountable.
- Standards are written to be verifiable, not just descriptive.

Sustaining operations write standards they can actually measure and verify.

2 — The verification trap

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- Verification tests whether the control works, not just whether it is present.
- Verifiers observe the control as it is actually done, and test its effectiveness under a real demand.
- A clean result is met with healthy curiosity; the gap is the standing question.

Sustaining operations verify effectiveness, not presence.

3 — The integration gap

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- Critical controls are connected to the systems that keep them alive — change, emergency, contractor and asset management.
- A change to plant, people or process triggers a review of the affected critical controls.
- Control health is visible to leaders, not buried in separate systems.

Sustaining operations wire controls into the management system.

YOUR SCORE Tally each block out of 6, and all three out of 18.

0–2 fragile — most likely to stall 3–4 developing 5–6 sustaining

Want to pressure-test your program? Book a call. impresssolutions.com.au