

EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTING ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS (RCA) ON PROJECTS INVOLVING ADVANCED GEOPHYSICS

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On 11 April 2016, the Assistant Secretary of Defense established the DOD Advanced Geophysics Classification Accreditation Program (DAGCAP). Contractors who implement advanced geophysics on munitions response sites are required to implement a management system and technical procedures that comply with ISO/IEC-17025:2005, General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories. The procedure for corrective action starts with an investigation to determine the root cause(s) of the problem, and notes, Cause analysis is the key and sometimes the most difficult part in the corrective action procedure.

There's no shortage of opportunities to apply root cause analysis on projects involving advanced geophysics classification. Malfunctioning equipment, complex site conditions, software aspects, suspect data, etc. are a continual challenge to geophysics professionals. Geophysicists are continually troubleshooting problems and glitches that arise. They fast-track field work variances to keep the project moving. They are expected to detect and solve problems upon discovery, and minimize rework. Experienced geophysics professionals expect unforeseen problems and commonly resemble master contingency planners, equipment trouble-shooters and talented improvisers in the field.

If you can relate to this description, we believe you will welcome our overview of root cause analysis, featuring root cause analysis examples from an advanced geophysics classification project. We will conclude by highlighting the common elements of an effective Contractor root cause analysis process based on standard industry practice and lessons learned.