Likelihood of Failure Club – The VALID Approach

What is the Likelihood of Failure?

Do you want to improve your Likelihood of Failure tree risk assessment skills? Come along and learn how to make credible, consistent, and calibrated decisions at 'Likelihood of Failure Club'. This highly interactive, hands-on training shines the spotlight on what is often the most subjective, uncertain, and challenging part of a tree risk assessment. 'What is the Likelihood of Failure?'

The VALID Likelihood of Failure Tool

The VALID approach to estimating Likelihood of Failure accounts for: **V**itality, **A**natomy, **L**oad, **I**dentity, and **D**efect using a Likelihood of Failure Tool. It is an easy to remember checklist of the Likelihood of Failure factors that *push* the estimate towards benchmark red, or *pull* it to benchmark green. It not only helps you focus on what is important, but it allows you to very quickly identify where differences of opinion may lie. Usefully, VALID leaves an auditable record of your decision-making about the Likelihood of Failure.

Likelihood of Failure Benchmarks and Categories

Benchmarks

Benchmarks are the Likelihood of Failure categories where you have the highest confidence and the lowest uncertainty in your estimate. Benchmark Red is the tree part you most expect to fail in the next year. Benchmark Green is the tree part you least expect to fail in the next year.

Categories

There are 5 Likelihood of Failure categories as words and numbers, with two colours and six shades. Once you anchor your opinion to a benchmark colour, 3 Likelihood of Failure categories associated with the other benchmark colour, are no longer available to you.

Likelihood of Failure Club Rules

You will be given VALID voting cards, shown a tree part, and invited to form your own opinion about the likelihood of failure without any discussion. Everyone then votes for a 'benchmark' and Likelihood of Failure category. After you've declared your opening opinion, those of you who have voted for the same Likelihood of Failure category will form teams and use the VALID Tool to explain the reasoning for your decision. Each team then tries to persuade those who have voted for a different Likelihood of Failure why they should join them, and vice versa. After a healthy round of discussion and deliberation, a final round of voting allows any of you to change your mind if another team makes a more convincing case founded on stronger evidence.

Sydney, Australia, 2017

Likelihood of Failure Club meetings around the world are highly rated by those that come along. They are valued because they provide an informal and thought-provoking place where everyone can share their opinions and knowledge about tree failure.

You will come away from the day having had your Likelihood of Failure decision-making muscles given a really good workout. You will be better calibrated because you will have seen what many others think about the same defect. And you will have a higher confidence and consistency in your Likelihood of Failure estimates.

Likelihood of Failure Club – Abstract