

The 6M Categories for Cause Analysis

Standard categories for organizing potential causes in manufacturing

Man (People)

Training, skill,
fatigue, attention

Machine (Equipment)

Wear, calibration,
maintenance, age

Material

Quality, variation,
supplier, contamination

Method (Process)

Procedures, sequence,
parameters, SOP

Measurement

Accuracy, precision,
calibration, method

Mother Nature (Environment)

Temperature, humidity,
vibration, cleanliness