

A SMALL PROBLEM DOES NOT STAY SMALL.

# 5 SIGNALS IT IS ABOUT TO GET EXPENSIVE.

## THE COST CLOCK

Most expensive problems do not start expensive. Watch the first signals.



### ● IN DESIGN

×1

Found while design is open.  
Small correction, no customer impact.

### ● IN VALIDATION

×10

Testing or pilot runs.  
Rework, retesting, schedule pressure.

### ● IN THE FIELD

×100

After shipment.  
Warranty, urgent action, loss of trust.

*The question is not only what the problem is. It is **when you find it.***

## 5 signals a small issue is about to get expensive

### 01 People describe the requirement differently

When each team explains it differently, the problem usually surfaces later.

### 03 Testing has already started

Once validation begins, small changes affect tests, reports and timing.

### 05 The fix now affects timing

It stops being technical once it touches schedules, deliveries or customers.

### 02 The same issue keeps coming back

If it returns after being solved, the real cause was probably missed.

### 04 More people are getting involved

When engineering, quality, production and purchasing all join, cost grows.

### Before accepting a “small issue”, ask:

**Can this still be corrected quietly?**

**Will it trigger retesting?**

**What happens if the customer sees it first?**

The goal is **not more paperwork**. It is **finding the issue before** it becomes an **external crisis**.

Most **expensive problems** do not start as expensive problems. They become expensive when **nobody acts on the first warning signs**.

**APQP moves these questions earlier.**