



You Need An Investigator

Where Failure Can Begin

There are many steps that must be traversed for circuit boards to reach their final destination. Each of the steps listed below follow this journey and provide ample opportunity for contamination. They are:

- Design
- Fabrication
- Assembly
- Manufacturing Environment
- Storage
- Shipping

The underlying problem is usually hidden along one or more of these. That's why it is crucial to look for clues and analyze the complete journey of a circuit board. By finding out how and when this failure began, you can avoid the issue in the future or hold the right people accountable in the present.

How Foresite Investigates

Typically, we start by working backwards to discover where the electronic failure occurred. This investigative approach is supported by the use of tools such as the C3/C.I. and ion chromatography. This allows us to observe the chemical signature by isolating board areas and quantifying what those residues are and which ones can be problematic.

Residues such as high levels of phosphate, sulfate, or in some cases, chlorate instead of chloride, or nitrates and nitrites can give us clues. These aren't part of the normal chemical signatures and typically alert our team of investigators as to where the lead cause of board contamination first began.

To learn more about this topic, read our full [blog article](#), or if you're currently in need of an investigator, contact us. Our experienced team will solve the problem.