

GATE REVIEW OVERVIEW

www.gatereview.com

Gate Review Terminology:

Gate Reviews are sometimes referred to as Gateway reviews; Peer reviews; Phase reviews; Stage reviews or similar. The key is that these reviews must be totally independent of, and separate to, the line management approval reviews. This is essential to objectivity, effective assurance and accountability.

What are Gate Reviews?

- A mandatory system of Assurance which is outcome focused; built on an exacting evidence base; integrated across all mechanisms; provides the ability to plan, schedule and resource assurance activity; minimizes the burden placed on Projects; triggers further interventions where necessary; and systematically propagates lessons learned and resultant improvement in project capability.
- Assurance comes from Independent or arms-length 'Peer' reviews, in order to help line management make better informed decisions at key project 'gates' - throughout the lifecycle - whilst continuing to retain clear authority, responsibility and accountability for delivering project outcomes.
- Assurance is integral to, and aligned with, the organisation's overall governance framework along with risk management, internal controls and core project management delivery capability.

Why do Gate Reviews?

- Assurance provides transparency and information enabling better informed decisions, which reduce the causes of project failure and promote the conditions for success in delivering project outcomes.
- Assurance aids management by exception, by triggering interventions if projects exceed agreed control limits regarding time, cost and quality as well as identifying systemic weaknesses & issues.
- National Audit Office evidence and findings, as well as Industry experience and results, clearly attest to the significant benefits of Gate Reviews in reducing project risks, uncertainty and volatility.

How do Gate Reviews work?

- Complex projects are planned and assessed in manageable 'phases' within the lifecycle. Assurance reviews add most value at 'gates' where phases transition at key milestones; risk is higher; and decisions benefit most from objective independent Gate Review assessment and recommendations.
- Gate Reviews focus on the robustness of the project delivery process and credible plans, including scope; schedule; resource; risk & opportunity; quality; and cost for the next phase. Readiness and preparedness to transition to the next phase in the lifecycle is also calibrated as part of the Gate Review, against the actual performance, progress and status, compared to plan for the prior phase.
- Gate reviews provide constructive challenge, encompassing three inter-related dimensions of the project through the lifecycle phases: **design** (solution integrity); **project delivery capability** (robustness of plans, resources); and **project performance** (progress, status) versus baseline plan.

Gate Review Credentials:

- Assuritas® is backed by over 30 years of international Gate Review experience within major projects organisations in the public and private sectors – both at an organisational 'systems' level and at an individual tender or project level. Projects and organisations differ considerably as do capability maturity (healthcheck) so a 'one size fits all' approach to Gate Reviews does not work.
- Assuritas® IP includes www.gatereviews.com and www.gatewayreviews.com as well as www.peereviews.com; www.phasereviews.com; www.stagereviews.com.au. + related domains.
- Gate review assurance is key to positioning projects for success. 'Fail to assure – assured to fail'.