

# Relative Humidity and Wet/Dry Transitions in Salt Spray Corrosion Tests

盐雾腐蚀测试中的相对湿度和干/湿转换

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**Q-Lab Corporation**

# Discussion Topics

- Reproducibility and Deliquescence

实验可再现性和盐的潮解

- Theoretical effects of wet/dry transition times

干/湿转换时间的影响

- Case Studies

- ASTM G85 Annex 5 (Prohesion)
  - SAE J2334: OEM Implementation

- How today's standards handle moisture transitions

现今腐蚀测试标准中湿度的转换

# Corrosion Test Reproducibility

## 腐蚀测试的可再现性

Wet/dry cyclic tests...

干湿循环测试：

- Generally are more realistic than continuous salt spray  
比持续盐雾测试更加真实
- Often have such poor reproducibility that many companies do not use them  
despite better realism  
实验可再现性不佳导致很多公司采用，即使有更好的相关性

# Salts in the Environment & TOW

## 环境中的盐和潮湿时间

- Salts ***deliquesce*** - they absorb moisture from the atmosphere until they dissolve and form a solution.  
盐的潮解 - 吸收空气的水分直到溶解并形成溶液
- All soluble salts will liquefy for RH values <100%  
所有可溶性的盐在湿度小于100%下都可溶解
- This leads to increased **time of wetness** and increased **corrosion**  
盐的潮解可以增加潮湿时间和提高腐蚀速率

# Deliquescence Relative Humidity

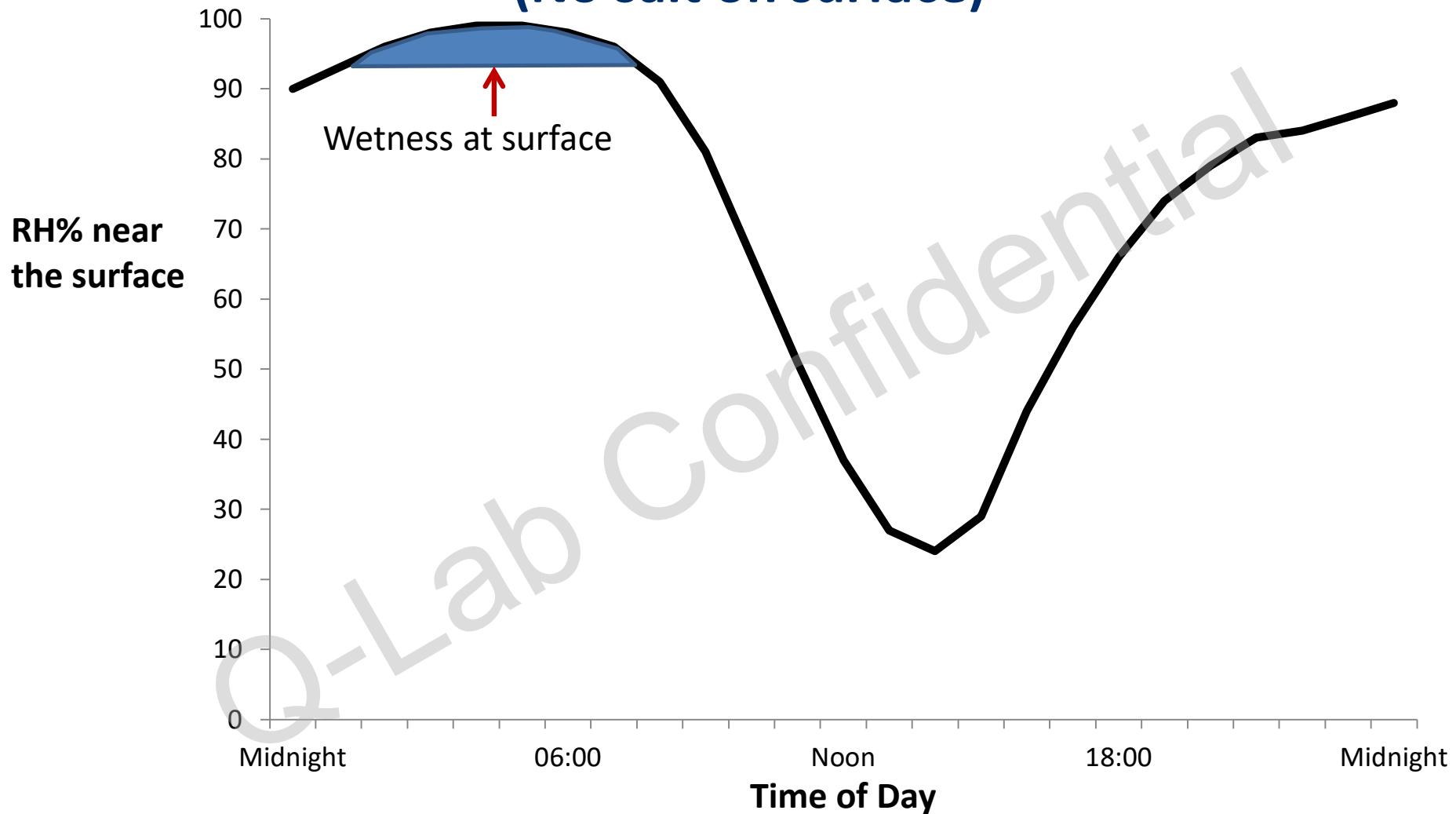
## 潮解湿度(DRH)

Salt	DRH
Potassium Chloride (KCl)	85%
Ammonium Sulfate $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$	81%
<i>Sodium Chloride (NaCl)</i>	<b>76%</b>
Sodium Nitrate $(\text{NaNO}_3)$	74%
Magnesium Chloride $(\text{MgCl}_2)$	33%
<i>Calcium Chloride (<math>\text{CaCl}_2</math>)</i>	<b>31%</b>

*if the environment is above this RH, a liquid salt solution will form*

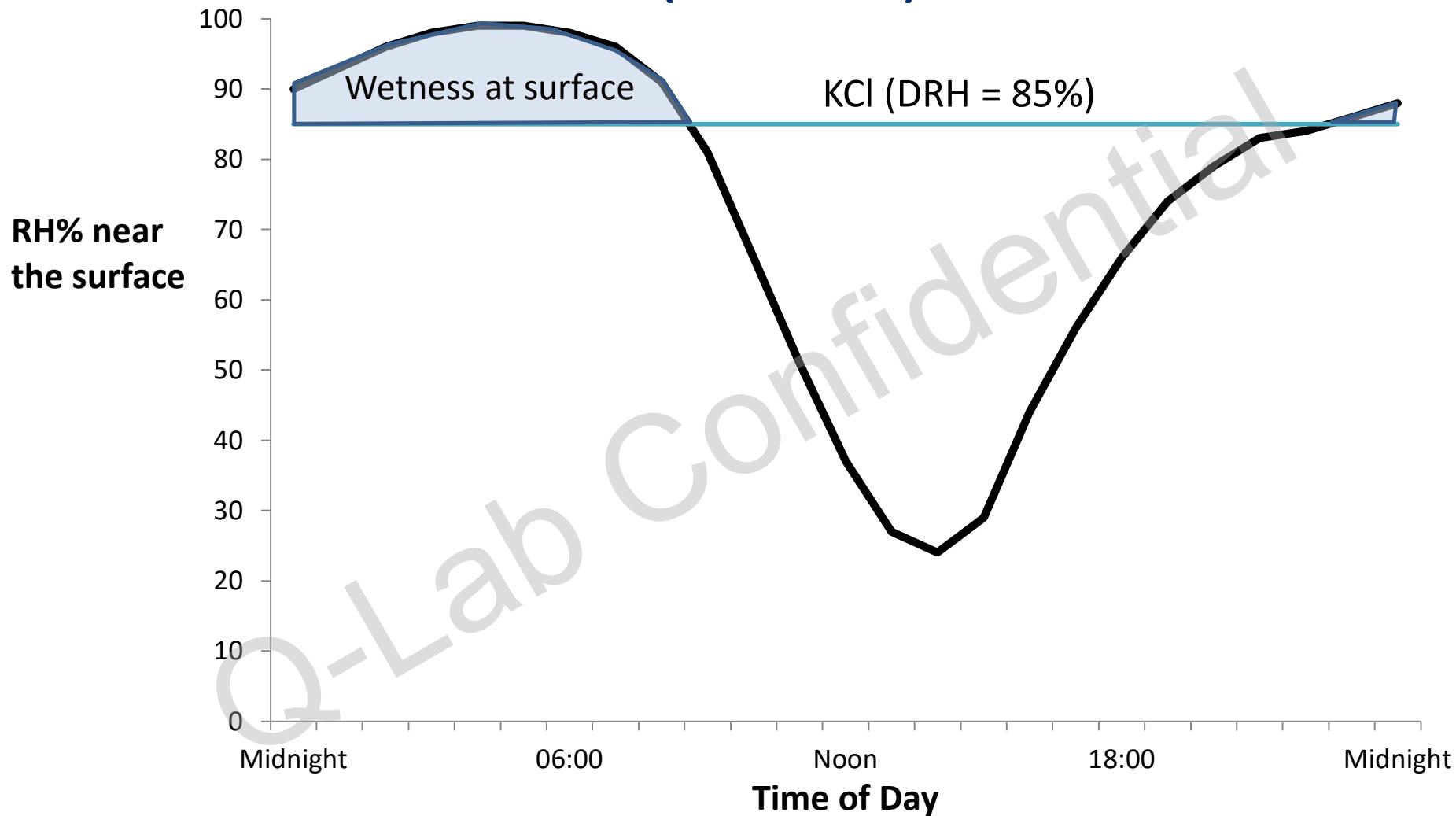
# RH and Time of Wetness

## (No salt on surface)



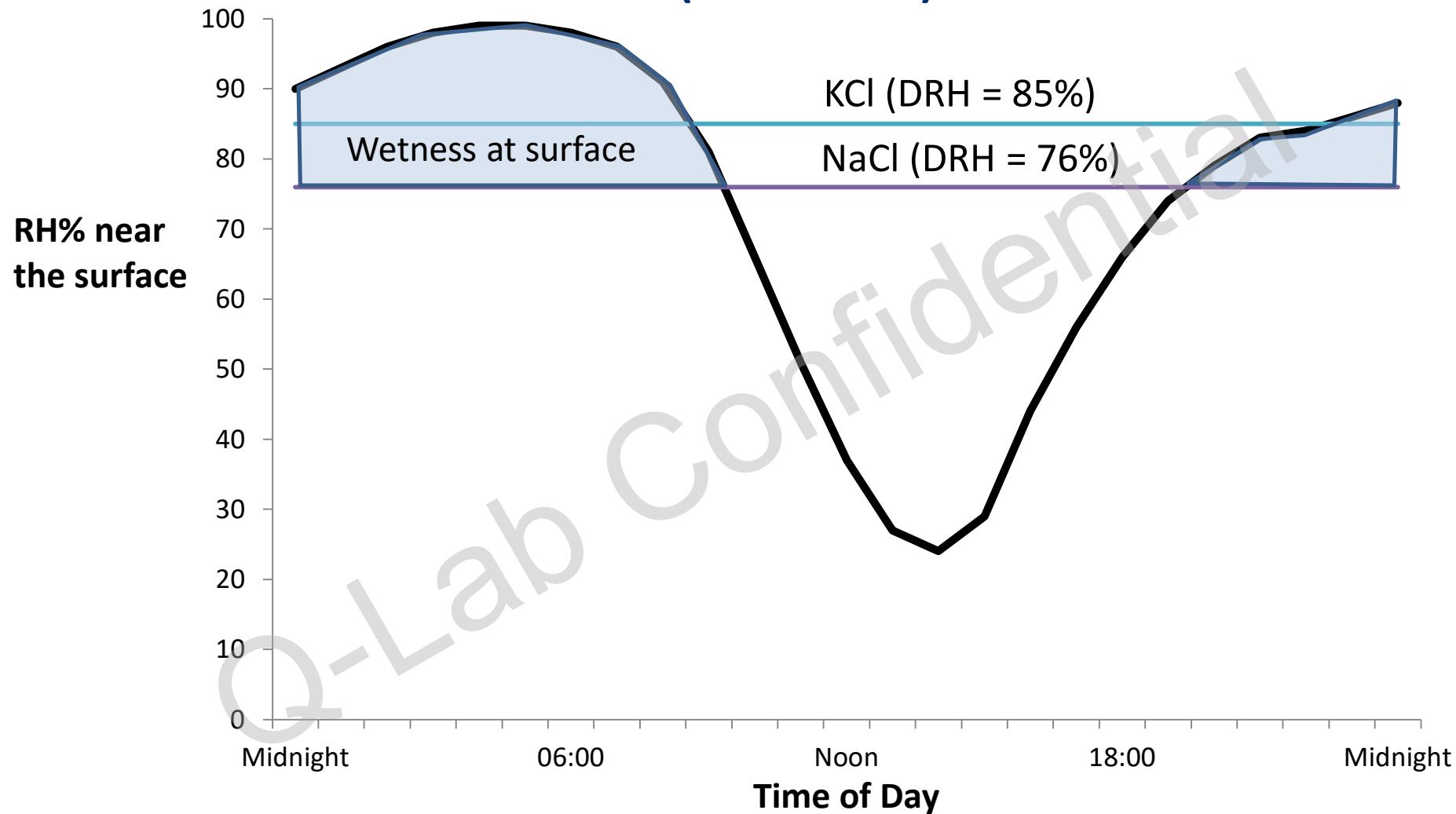
# RH and Time of Wetness

KCl (DRH = 85%)



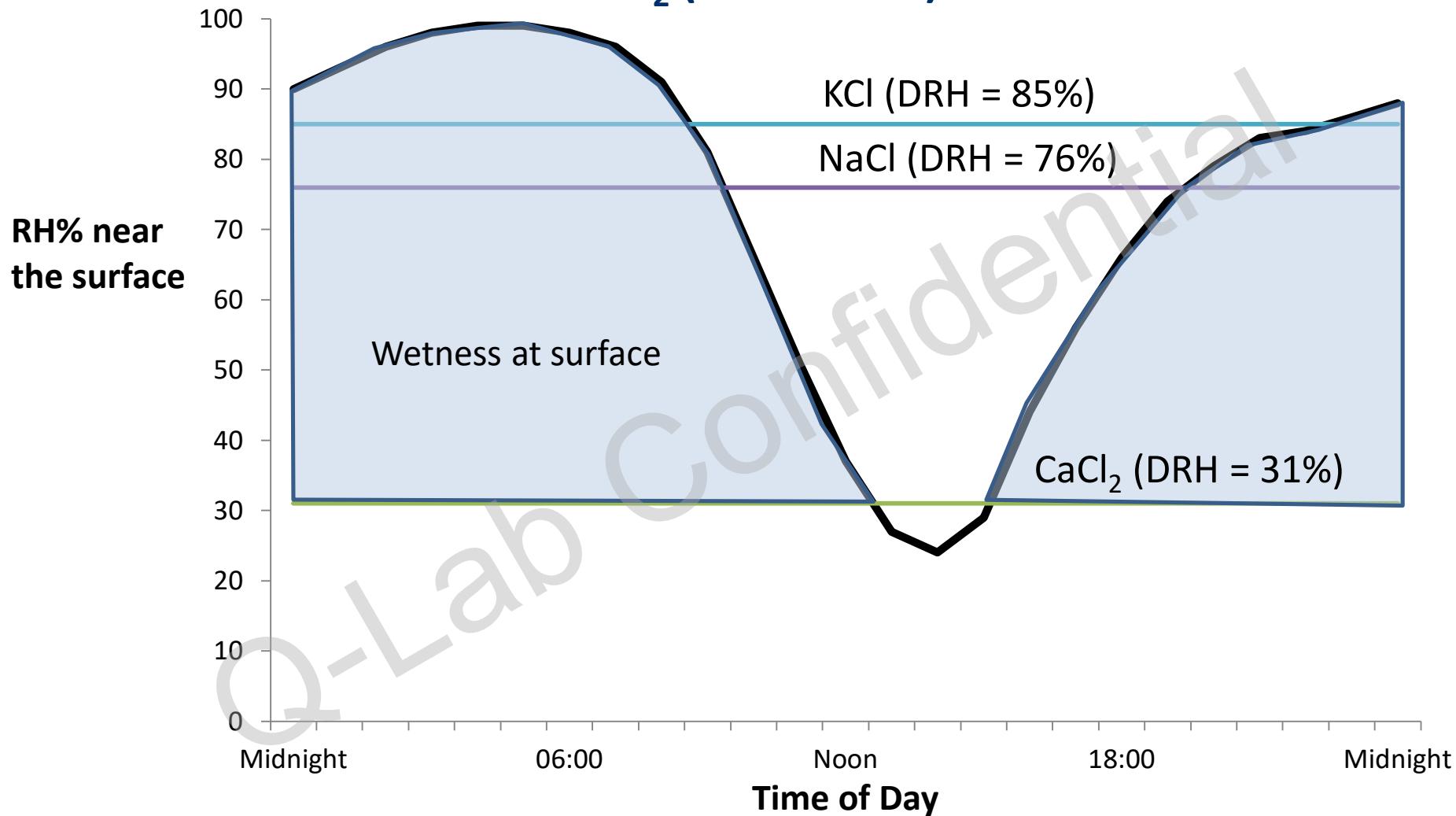
# RH and Time of Wetness

NaCl (DRH = 76%)



# RH and Time of Wetness

$\text{CaCl}_2$  (DRH = 31%)



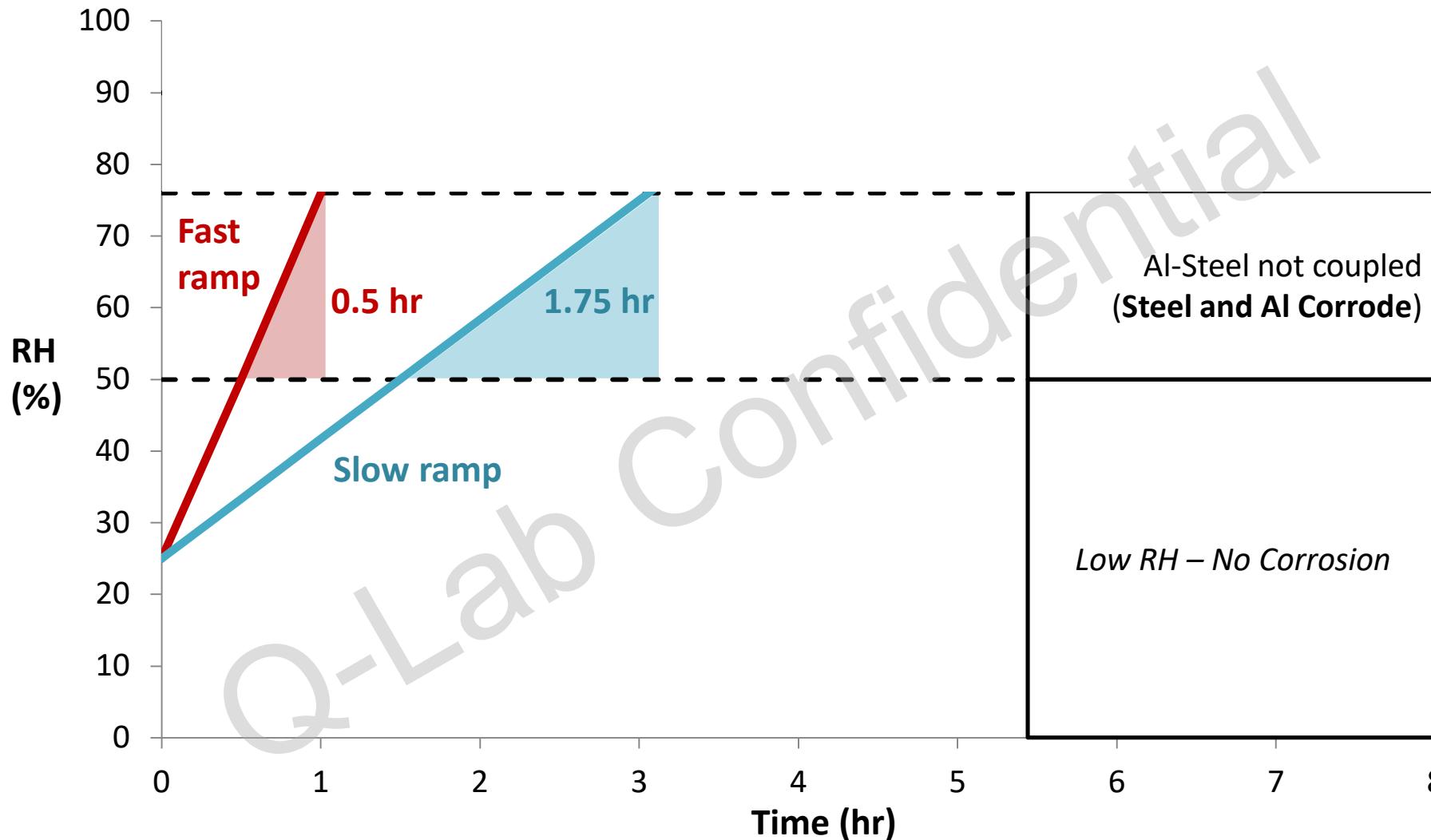
# Relative Humidity and Corrosion

## 相对湿度和腐蚀的关系

Condition	RH Range	Result
Dry 干燥	$\leq 50\%$	Very little corrosion from NaCl 几乎不发生腐蚀
Electrolytic cells around salt crystals; film formation as RH increases  盐开始潮解，但未形成连续的薄液层	50-76%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Corrosion of <b>steel</b> (maximum corroded area ~70% RH) and <b>aluminum</b> 铁和铝都腐蚀</li><li>AL-Steel galvanic couple broken 未形成电偶腐蚀</li></ul>
Uniform Electrolytic Film formation  均匀的电解液形成	$\geq 76\%$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maximum cathode area for steel; deeper non-uniform corrosion 铁成为阴极区</li><li><b>Al corrosion</b> in galvanic couple with steel 电偶腐蚀形成，铝腐蚀</li></ul>

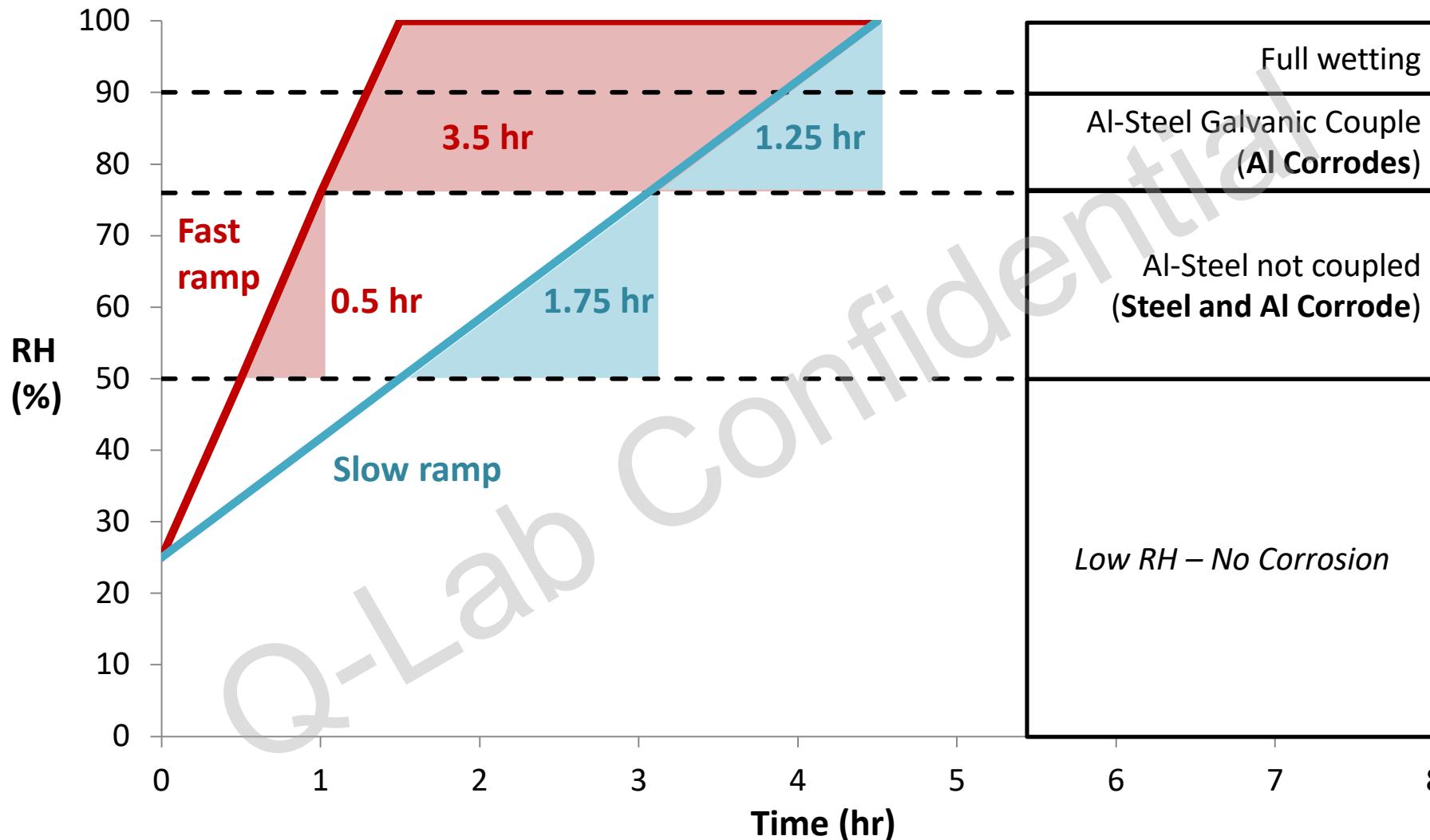
# Galvanic corrosion during ramping

50% < RH < 76%



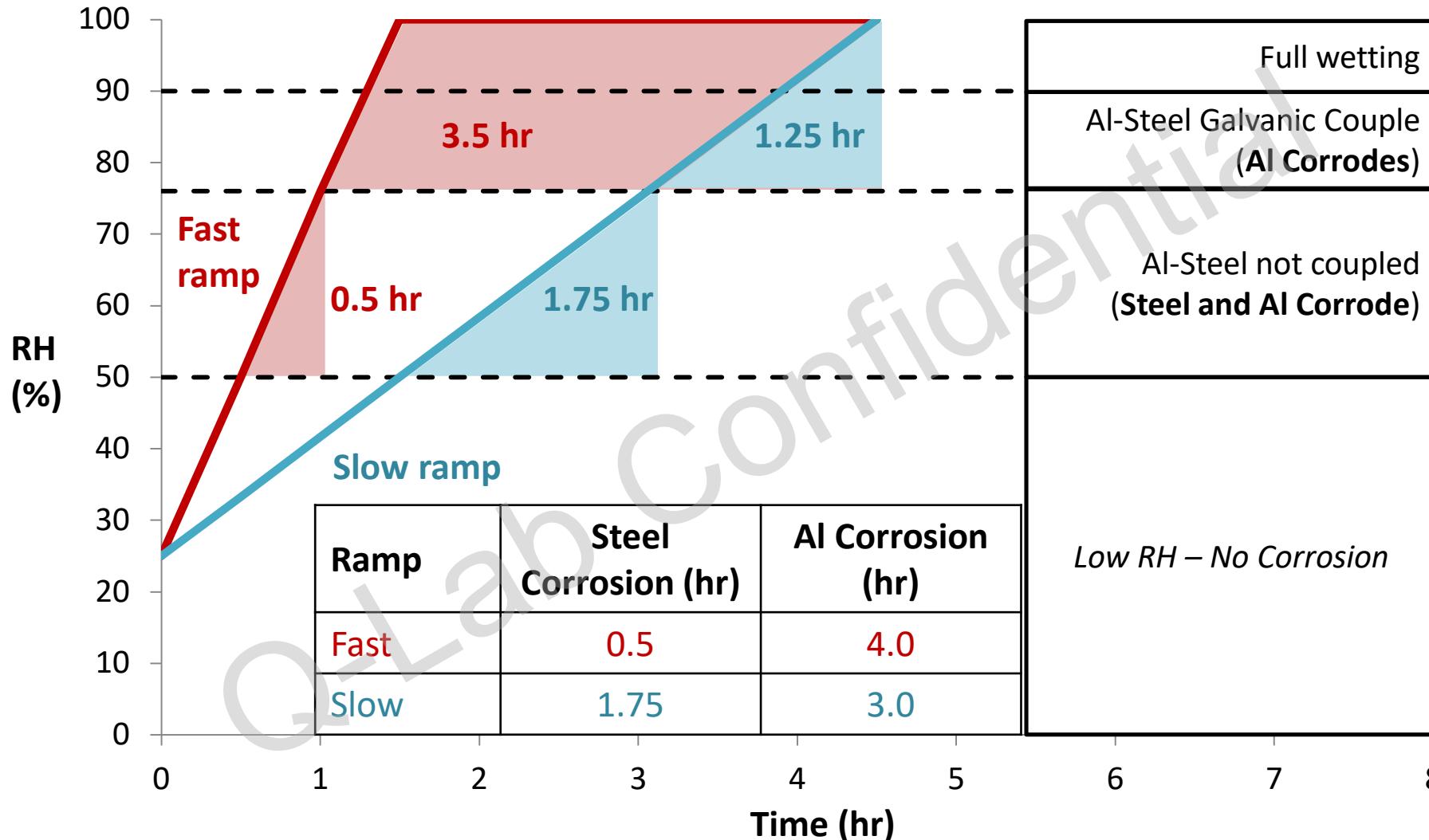
# Galvanic corrosion during ramping

High RH > 76%

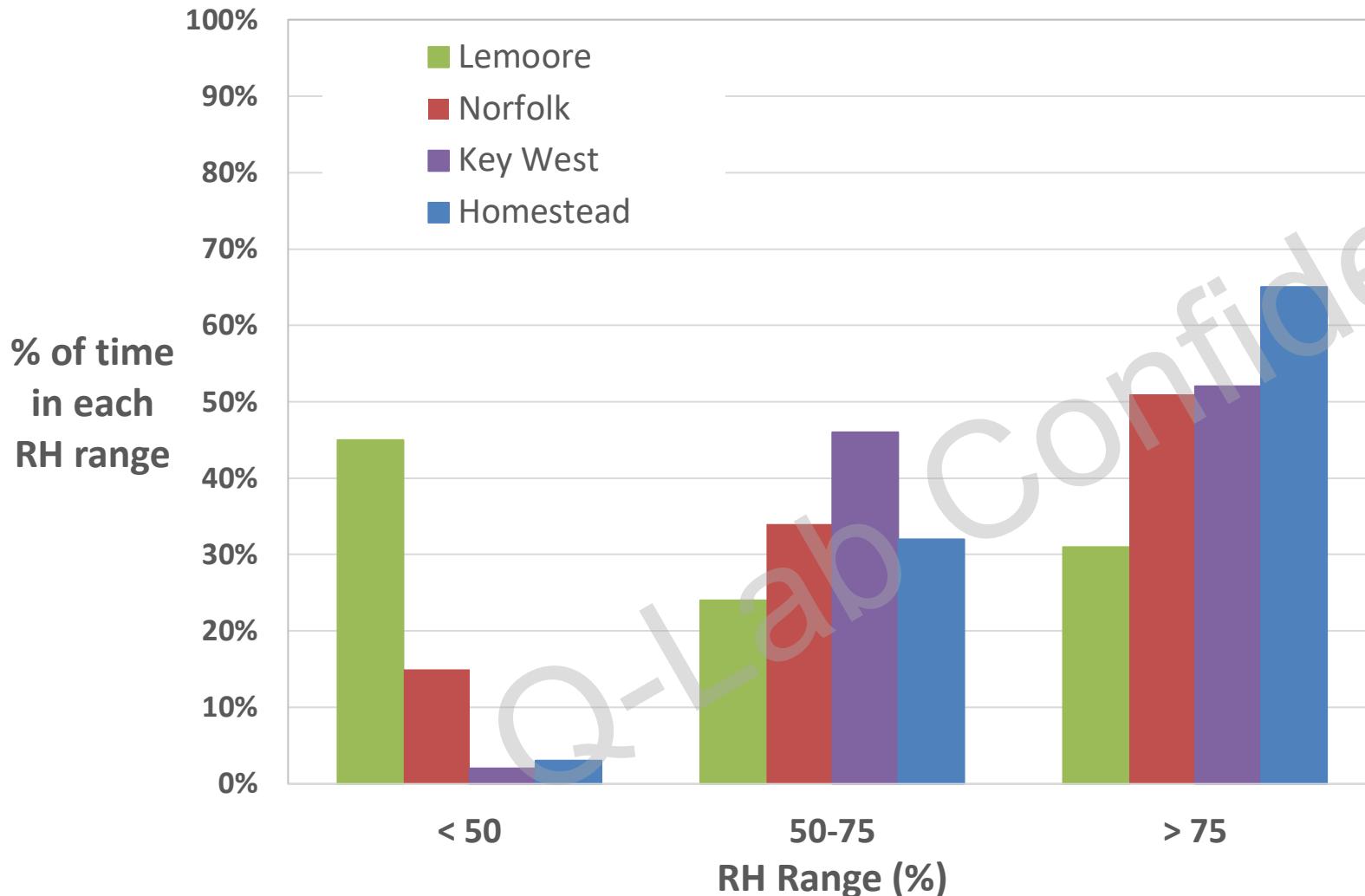


# Galvanic corrosion during ramping

## High RH > 76%



# RH Conditions in the Natural Environment



# ASTM G85 Annex 5 (Prohesion)

1 Hour fog at “ambient” temperature  
1 hour dry-off 35°C

Solution:    0.05% NaCl  
                  0.35%  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$   
                  pH: 5.0 - 5.4

# ASTM G85 Annex 5 (Prohesion)

- How dry is dry?  
怎样才算干燥?
- How long does it take to achieve a “dry” condition?  
需要多久才能达到干燥?

Answers are in the non-mandatory appendix:

“within  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour all visible moisture is dried off the specimens”

“在3/4小时内样品表面无可见的水”

# Problem Statement

My new chamber isn't as severe as my old one  
我的新盐雾箱测试结果没有老箱子厉害

*After 1000 hours of Prohesion, new chamber produced less severe results on a coatings test*

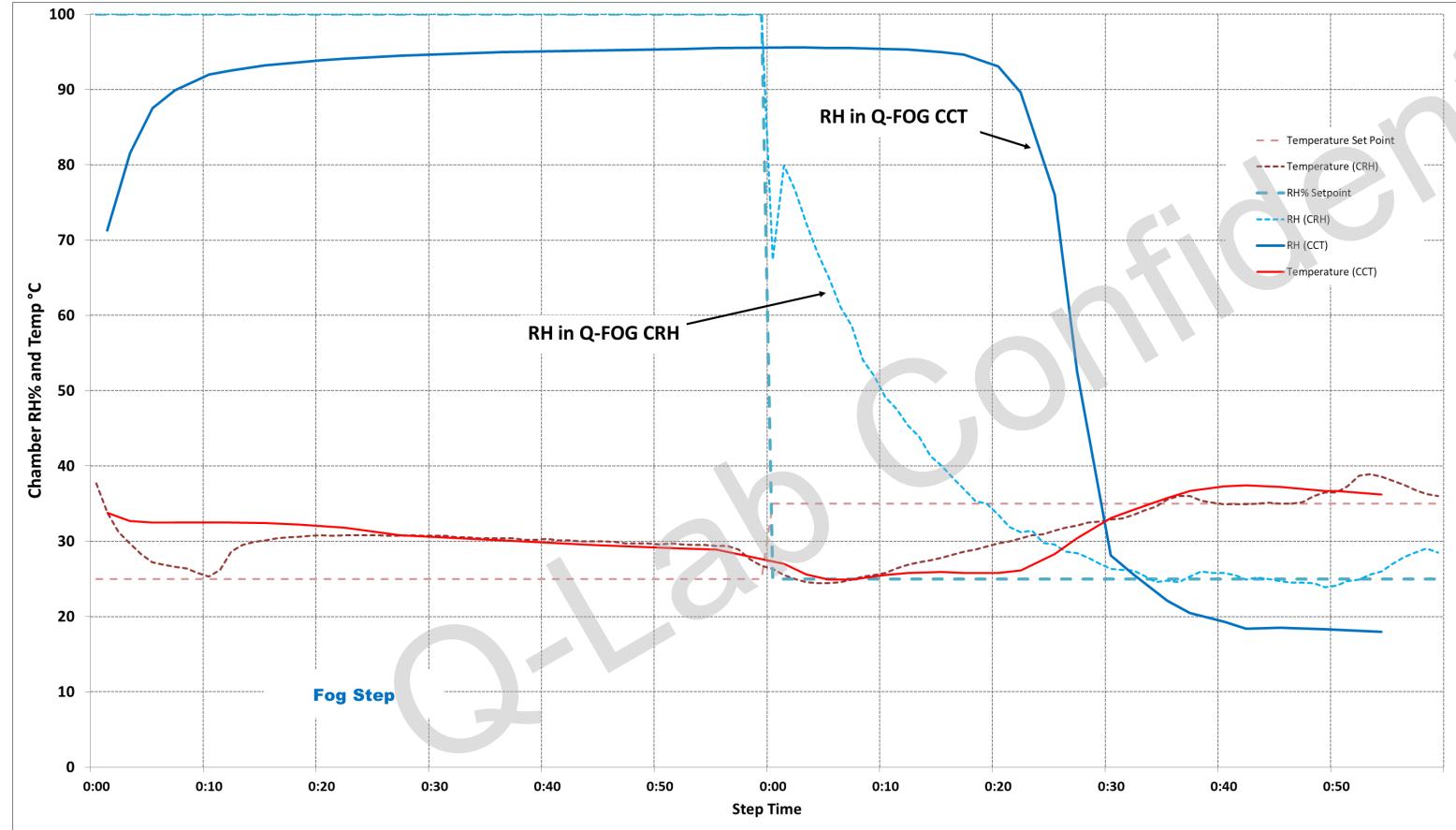
1000小时的Prohesion测试，新设备的实验结果没有老设备严重



*Q-FOG CCT*

*Q-FOG CRH*

# Prohesion RH Profile in Two Chambers



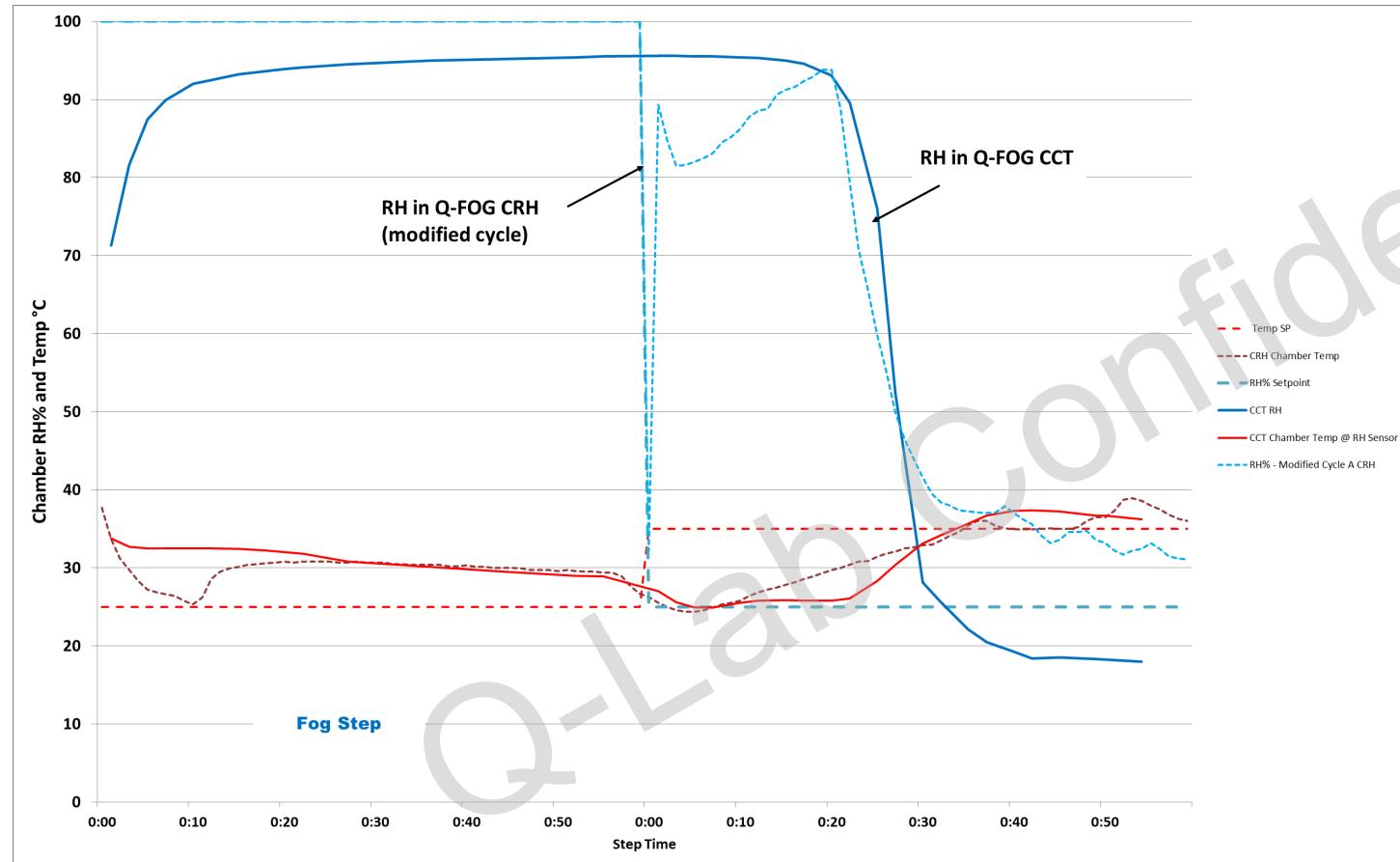
## Q-FOG CCT Cycle:

- Step 1: Fog 24°C 1:00
- Step 2: Dry 35°C 1:00
- Step 3: Go to Step 1

## Q-FOG CRH Cycle:

- Step 1: Fog 24°C 1:00
- Step 2: RH 35°C, 25% RH 1:00
- Auto transition
- Step 3: Go to Step 1

# Modified CRH Prohesion Cycle



## Modified Prohesion Cycle:

- Step 1: FOG 24°C 1:00
- Step 2: RH 35°C, 95%RH 0:30
- Auto transition
- Step 3: RH 35°C, 25% RH 0:30
- Auto transition
- Step 4: Go to Step 1



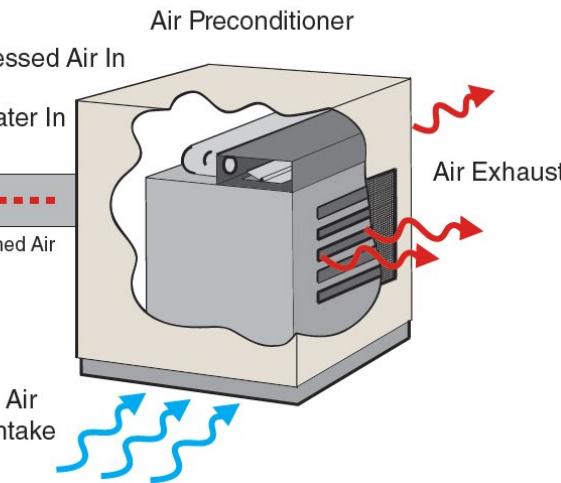
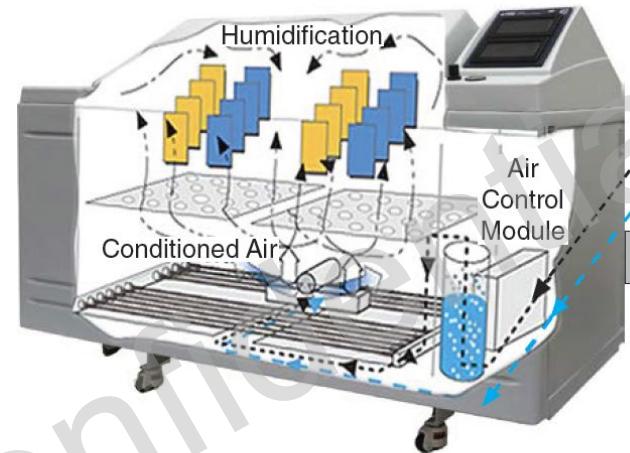
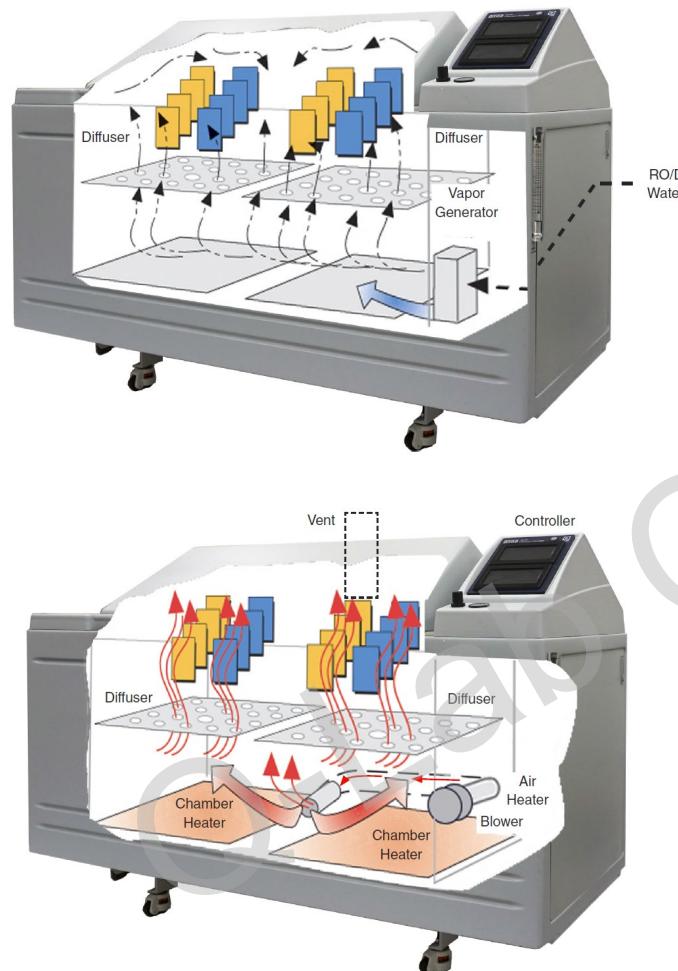
*Q-FOG CCT*

*Q-FOG CRH  
(modified cycle)*

# Q-FOG CCT vs CRH

*Q-FOG CCT has simple humidity generation without air flow and dry-off by blown heated air through chamber*

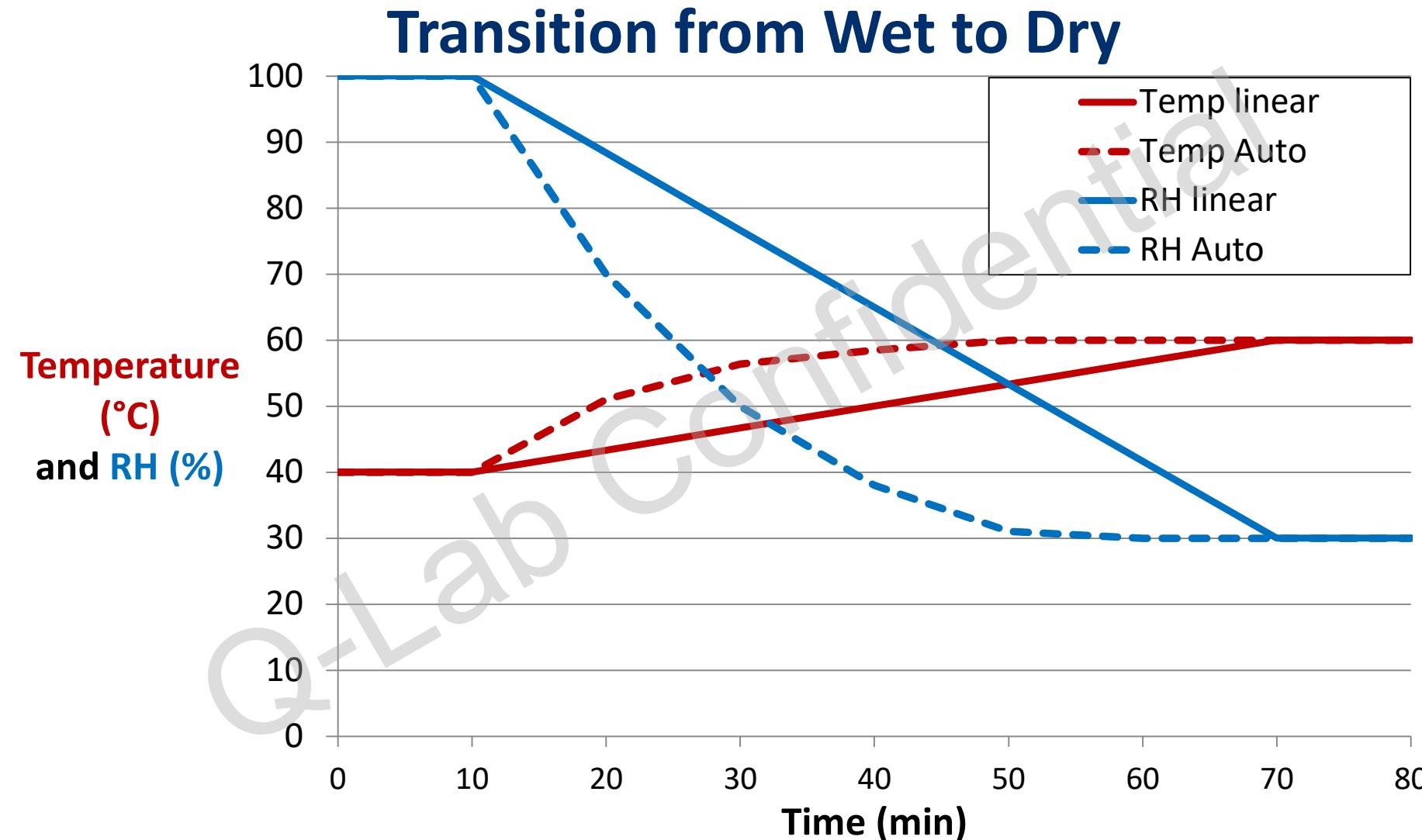
*Q-FOG CCT 机型  
通过热蒸汽加湿，通过鼓热风干燥*



*Q-FOG CRH has atomizing humidification nozzles, an air drier (chiller), and a recirculation system with damper to regulate moist and dry air streams*

*Q-FOG CRH 有加湿雾化喷嘴，压缩机干燥，和内循环系统来调节空气的湿度*

# Q-FOG CRH Linear and Auto Ramping



# SAE J2334

## Test Solution

0.5% NaCl

0.1% CaCl<sub>2</sub>

0.075% NaHCO<sub>3</sub>

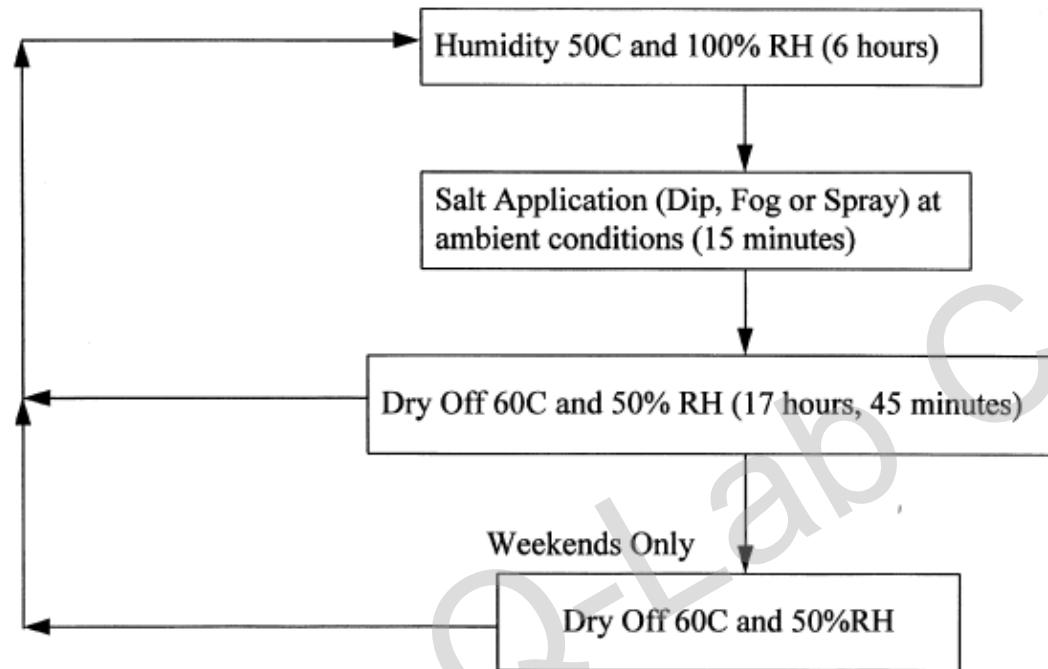
This is the same as GM 9540P and  
GMW 14872

*Salt solution applied by*

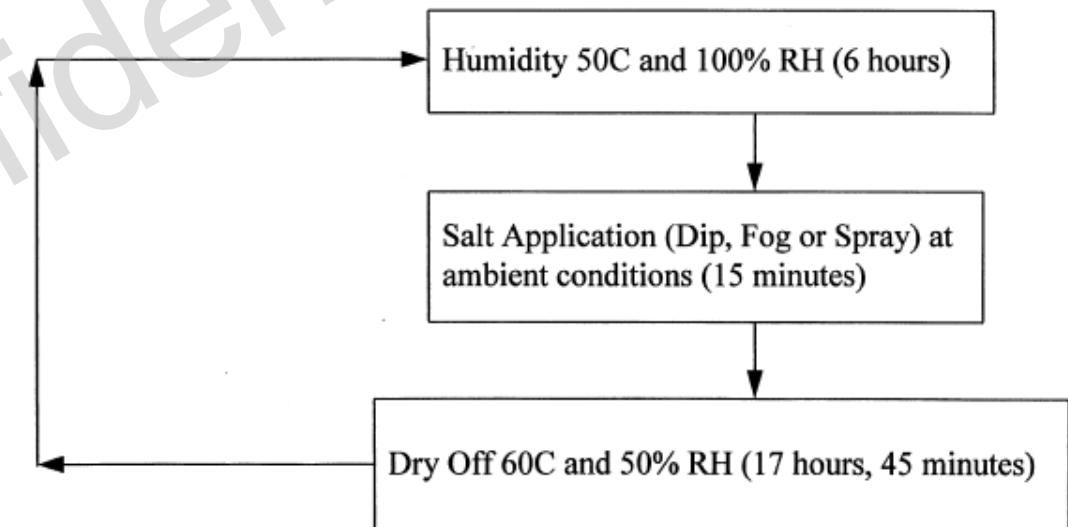
- *Immersion (used to develop method)*
- *Fog (may not deposit much salt on specimens)*
- ***Shower (most common today)***

# SAE J2334

## Cosmetic Corrosion LabTest Cycles SAE J2334 - 5 Day/Week - Manual Operation



## Cosmetic Corrosion LabTest Cycles SAE J2334 - 7 Day/Week - Automatic Operation

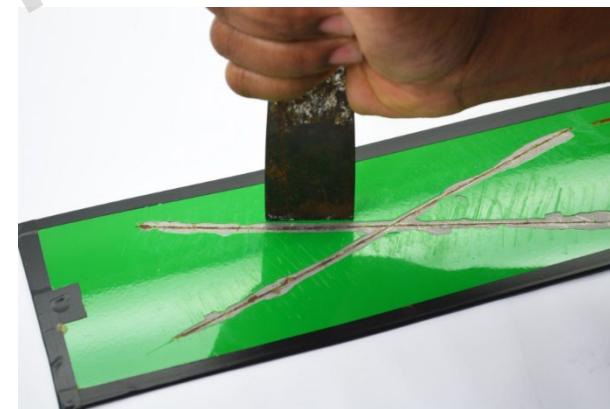


# OEM Implementation of J2334

Added mass loss requirement after 20 cycles: 1.3 – 3.0 g  
20个循环后的质量损失: 1.3-3.0 g



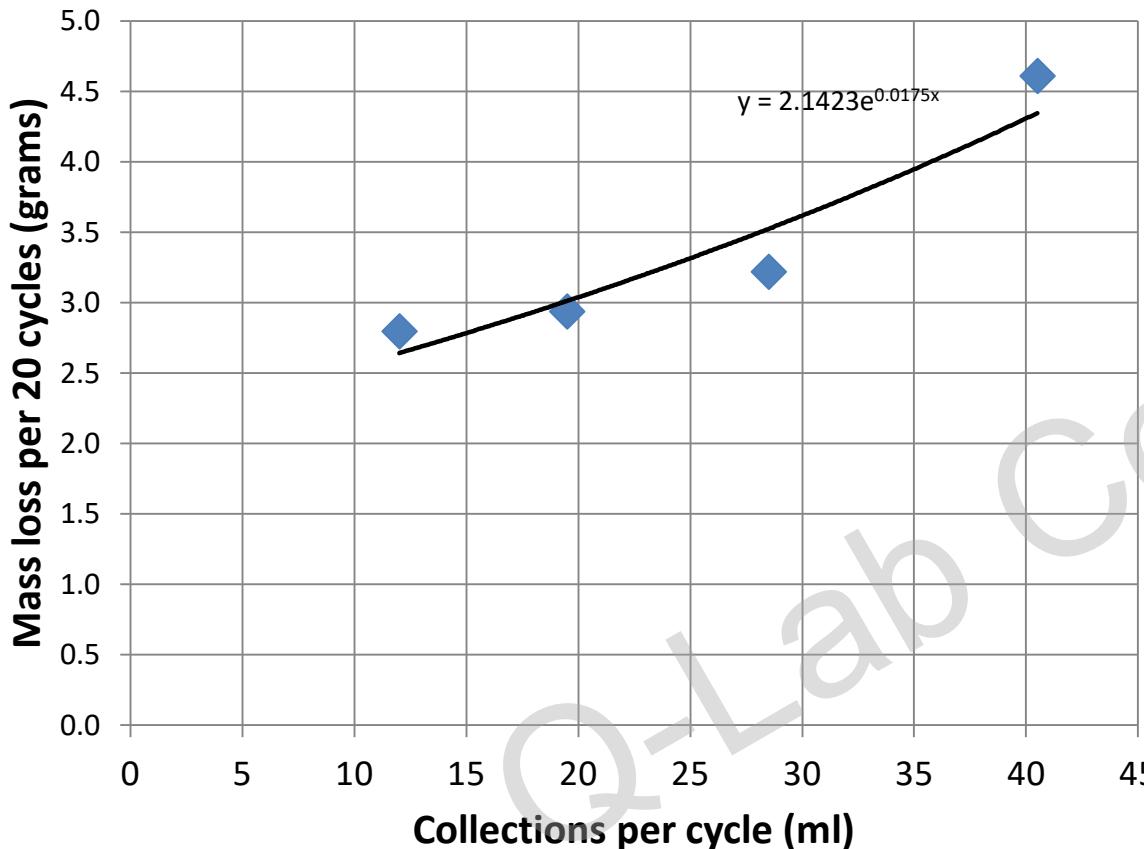
Topcoat specification:  
Rust “Creepback Value Before Scraping”  
Average: 4, maximum 6.5  
腐蚀蔓延平均值: 4, 最大6.5



# The Problem

- U.S. lab “passed” a formulation (average CVBS < 3)  
美国实验室通过测试（平均腐蚀蔓延<3）
- European lab “failed” same formulation (average CVBS > 6)  
欧洲实验室未通过测试（平均腐蚀蔓延>6）
- Formulation was a proven durable system (used as a test control)  
测试样品作为标准样，不应该出现如此大的偏差
- European lab coupon mass loss too high (~5 g after 20 cycles—3 g is max allowed)  
欧洲实验室的标准片的质量损失太高（20个周期~5 g – 最大值不超过3g）

# Experiment 1: Salt Shower Quantification



- Amount of collections correlated with mass loss (previously known from GMW 14872 testing)  
沉降量和质量损失的关系（从GMW14872测试中获得的经验）
- Adjusted spray on/off time to reduce spray (10ml/cycle)  
调整喷淋 on/off 脉冲
- Mass loss remained high!**  
质量损失依然很高！

# What about chamber conditions?

- Wet to dry transitions were programmed differently in U.S. lab (other chamber) and European lab (Q-FOG CRH)

两地使用的盐雾箱潮湿-干燥的转换是不同的

- 20 minute transition step added to U.S. chamber to speed up RH reduction (a common practice)

在美国的箱子中有插入20分钟的转换步骤用于快速的湿度下降  
(常规操作)

# Experiment 2: Rapid and Slow Dry Times

## 实验2：快速和缓慢的干燥时间

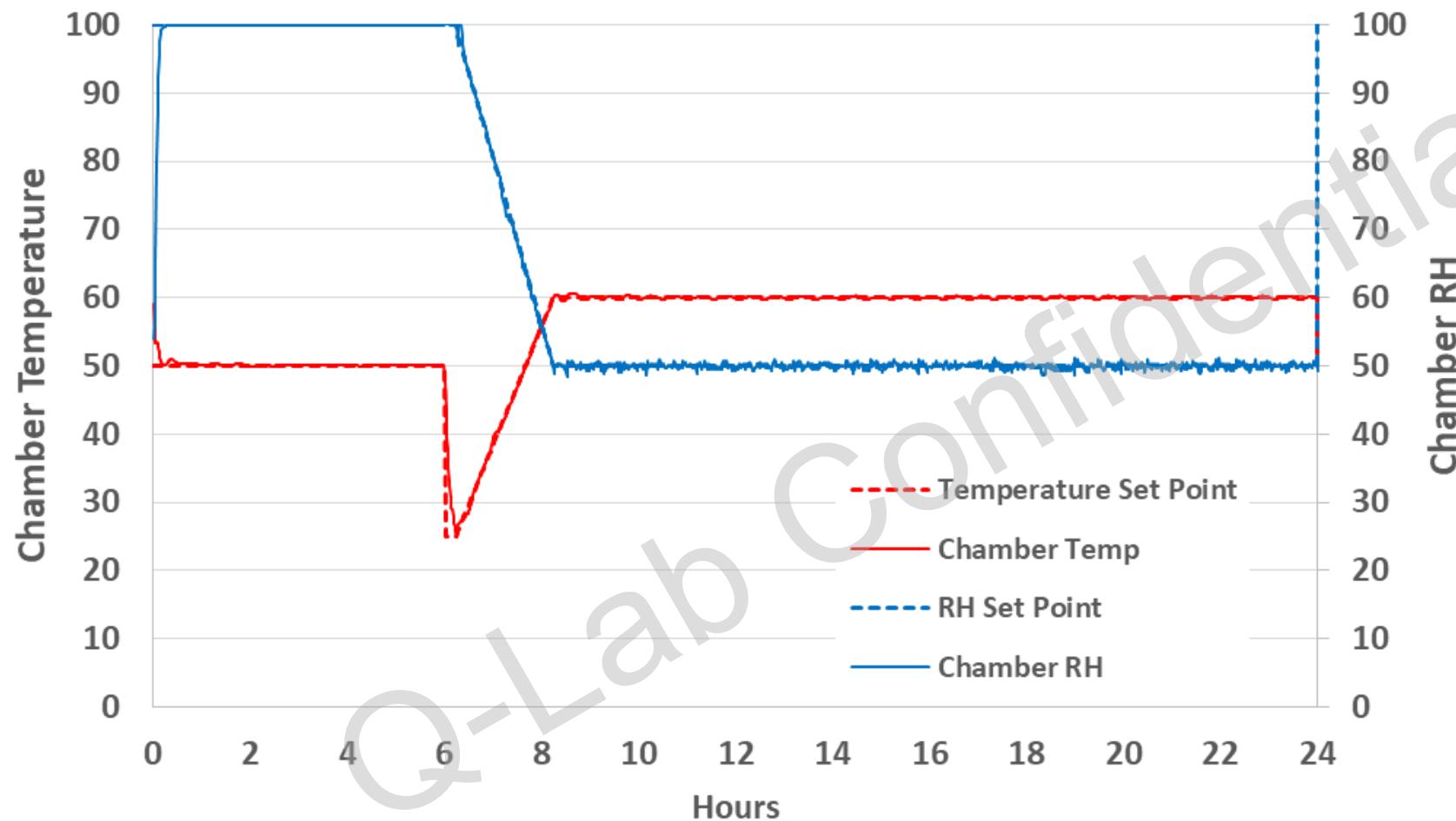
- Test original default SAE J2334 cycle in Q-FOG and another cycle designed to achieve faster dry-off time
- Q-FOG在执行SAE J2334标准时候被分别设计成快速和缓慢的干燥

# Slow Dry-off

## Programming Cycle

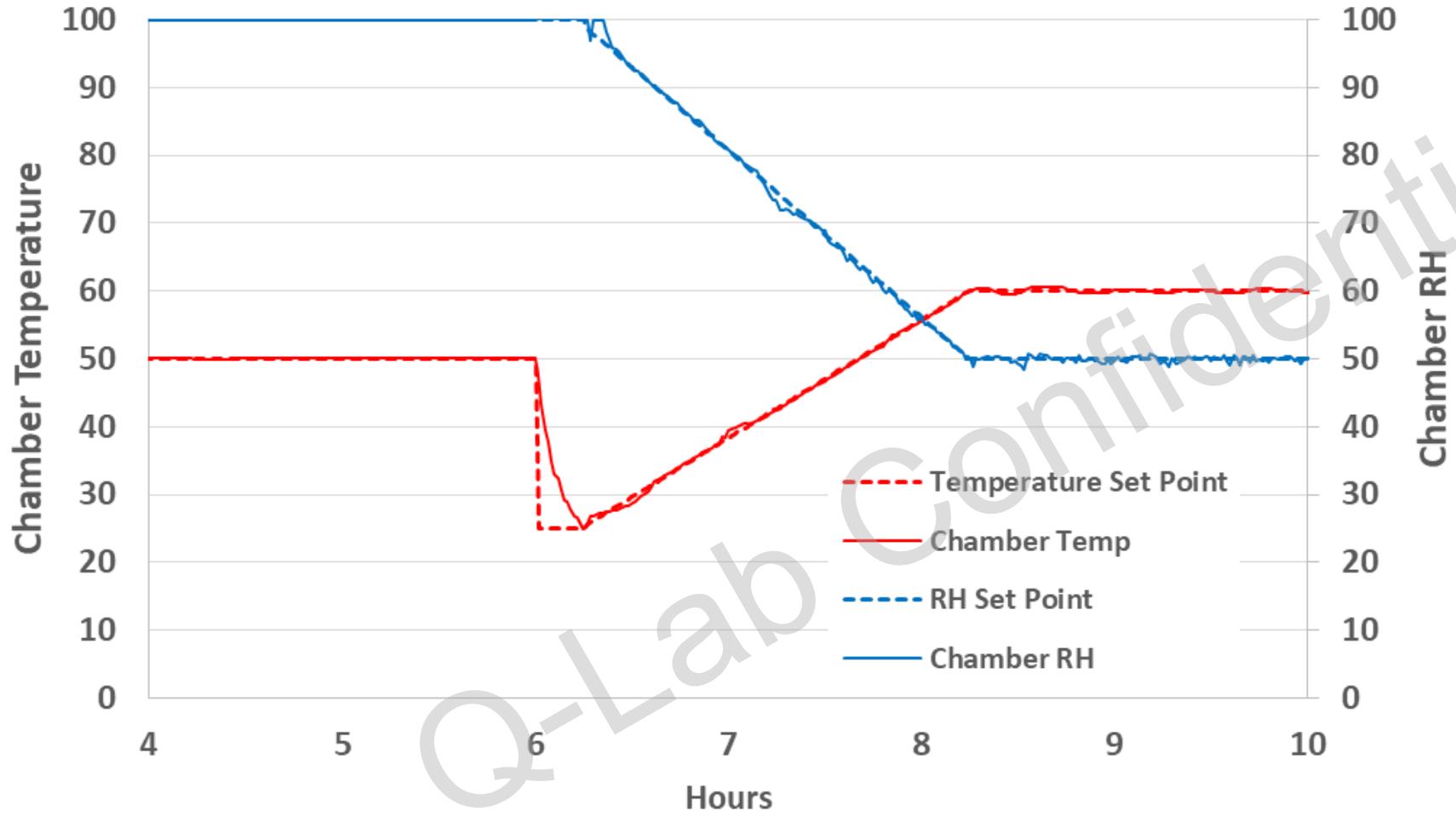
Step	Function	Chamber Air Temp (°C)	RH (%)	Step Time (hh:mm)	Ramp
1	RH	50	100	6:00	Auto
2	SHOWER	25		0:15	
3	RH	60	50	17:45	Linear (2:00)
4	Final Step - Go To Step 1				

## SAE J2334 Cycle (Slow Dry-Off)



*This version  
of the test  
was Q-Lab's  
default  
program for  
J2334.  
Linear  
transition  
after spray*

## SAE J2334 Cycle (Slow Dry-Off)



*Zoomed in view of  
the transition*

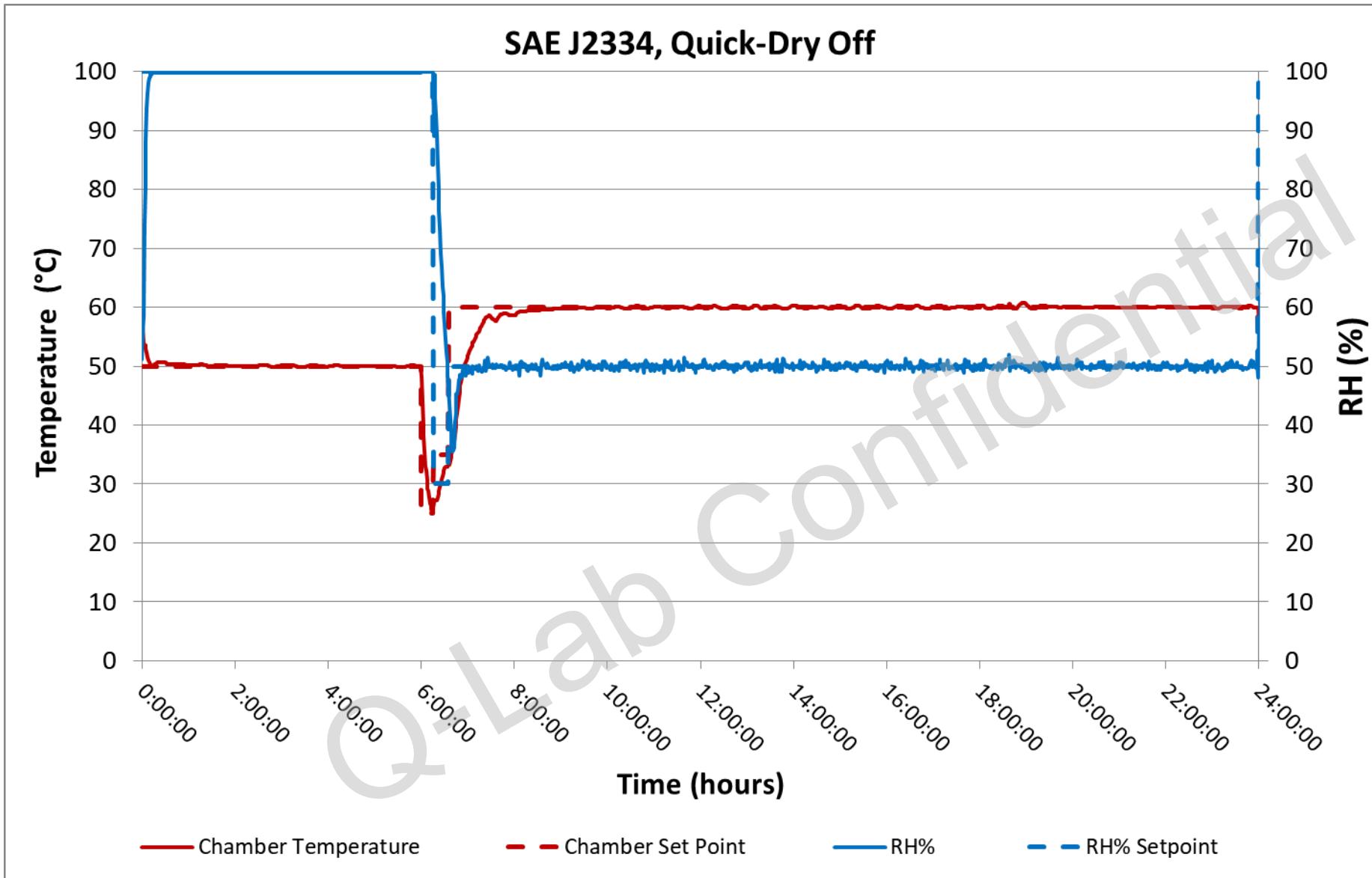
*During the  
transition, the time  
above the  
Deliquescence RH  
of NaCl is about 1  
hour*

*在过渡期间，  
NaCl潮解的时间  
是1个小时*

# Rapid Dry-off

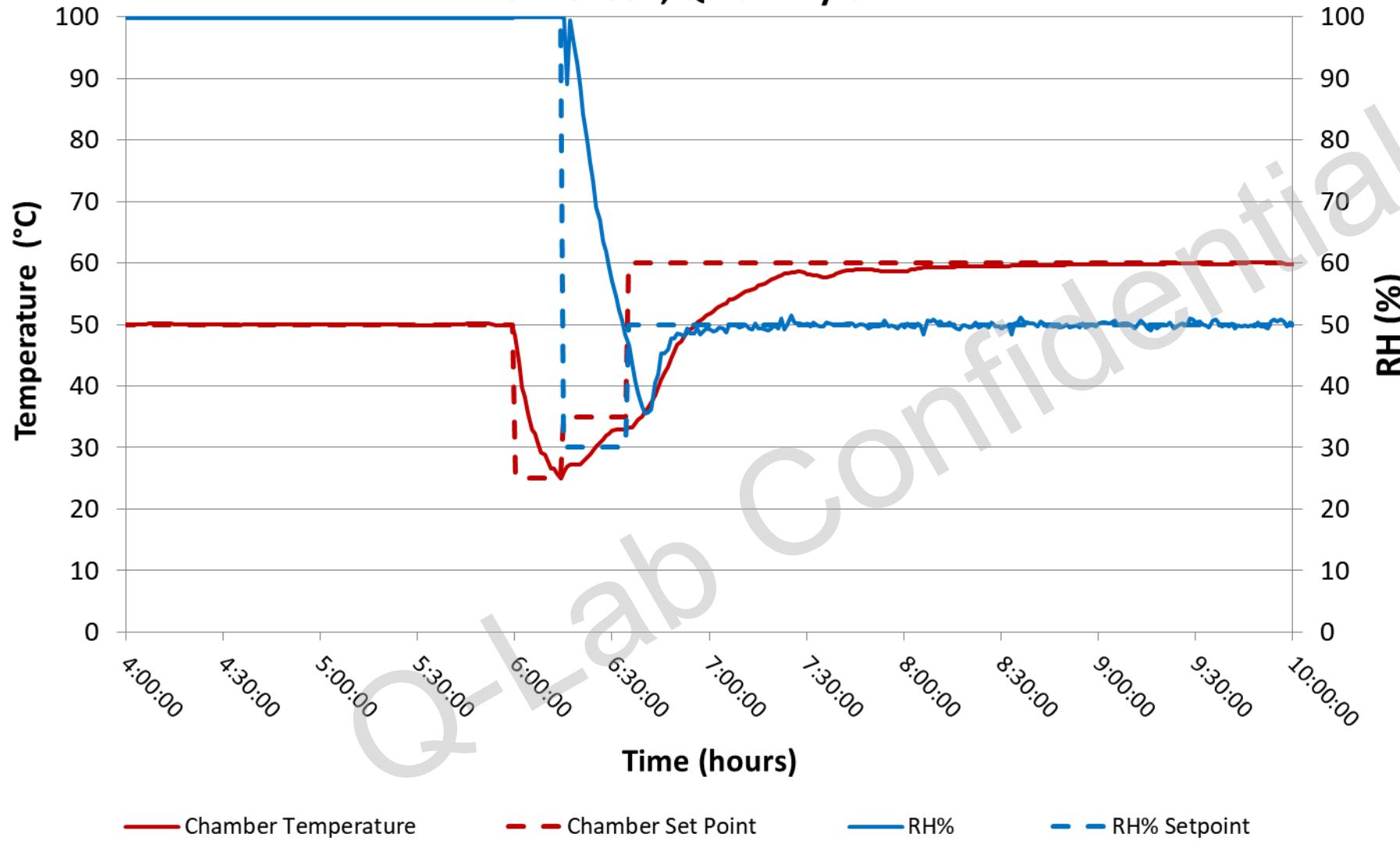
## Programming Cycle

Step	Function	Chamber Air Temp (°C)	RH (%)	Step Time (hh:mm)	Ramp
1	RH	50	100	6:00	Auto
2	SHOWER	25		0:15	
3	RH	35	30	0:20	
3	RH	60	50	17:25	Auto
4	Final Step - Go To Step 1				



*This version of the test cycle is programmed to be similar to customer's U.S. laboratory (in a different chamber)*

## SAE J2334, Quick-Dry Off

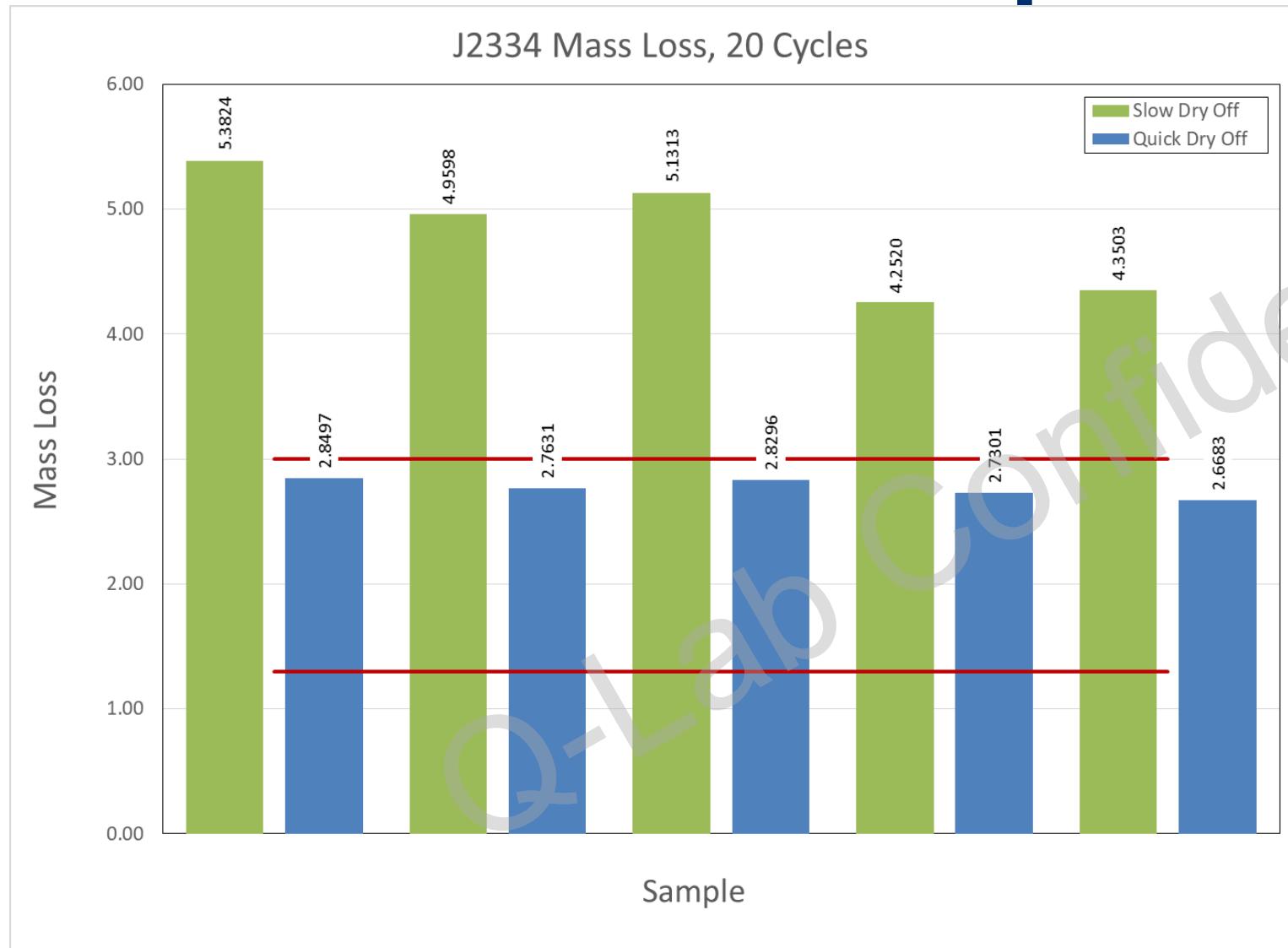


*Zoomed in view of  
the transition*

*During the transition  
the time above the  
Deliquescence RH of  
NaCl is about 10  
minutes*

*在过渡时间，NaCl  
潮解的时间是10分  
钟*

# Corrosion Coupon Mass Loss



*Green bars represent test under slow dry-off conditions*

*Blue bars represent test under rapid dry-off conditions*

*Red lines represent tolerance of OEM standard*

*Under the rapid dry test, the coated panels once again passed the test*

# Case Study Conclusions

- Reproducibility issues largely due to RH transitions  
实验可再现性和相对湿度的变化关系很大
- The longer the test, the bigger the difference between chambers  
测试时间越长，不同箱子之间的测试区别越大
- Amount of spray not a major contributor to reproducibility (but it contributes some)  
喷淋量的大小不是主要的因素

# Environmental Transitions in Today's Standards: Two Approaches

Rapid (<30 minutes wet to dry)

- Japanese Car Companies
- CCT I, II, IV, JASO M609
- Renault ECC1

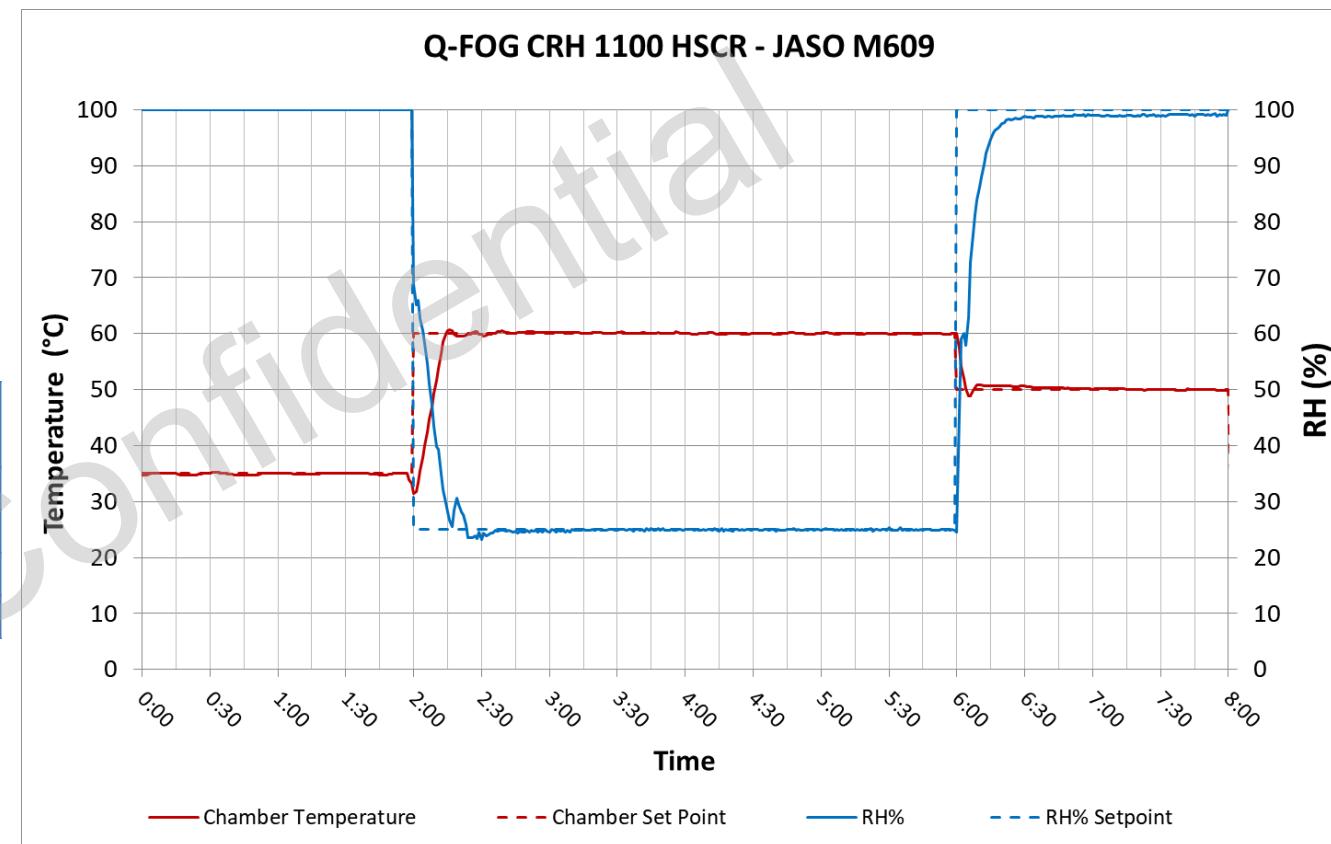
Controlled/Linear

- Volvo ACT1
- Volvo ACT2/Ford L-467
- GMW 14872
- Renault ECC1
- VDA 233-102

# JASO M609 (ISO 14993, 11997-1)

- Chamber Volume – 1100 l
- Chamber Load – 240 x 4" x 6" Steel Panels
- Laboratory Room Temperature – 28-30 °C

Step	Function	Chamber Air Temp (°C)	RH (%)	Step Time (hh:mm)	Ramp
1	FOG	35		2:00	< 0:30
2	RH	60	25	4:00	< 0:30
3	RH	50	100	2:00	< 0:15
4	Final Step – Go To Step 1				



# JASO M609

Transition times for JASO M609 in full Q-FOG CRH 1100 HSCR Chamber.

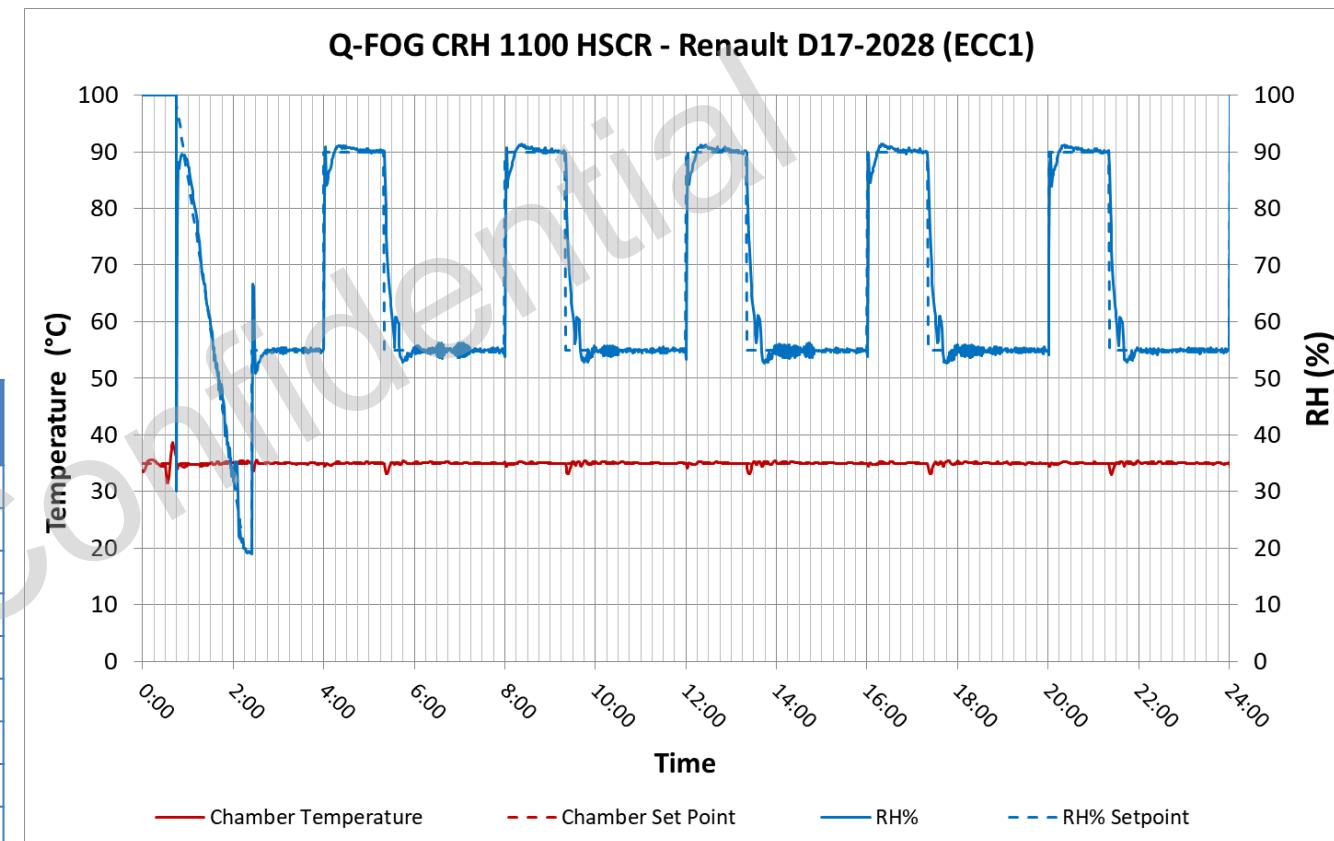
		Transition Requirement	Time for Temperature to reach requirement	Time for Relative Humidity to reach requirement	
JASO M609	Fog to Dry	$35^{\circ}\text{C}$ → $60 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C} / 20 - 30\% \text{ RH}$	< 0:30	0:13	0:14
	Dry to Wet	$60 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C} / 20 - 30\% \text{ RH}$ → $50 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C} / > 95\% \text{ RH}$	< 0:15	0:04	0:15
	Wet to Fog	$50 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C} / > 95\% \text{ RH}$ → $35^{\circ}\text{C}$	< 0:30	0:06	

# Renault D17-2028 (ECC1)

- Chamber Volume – 1100 l
- Chamber Load – 240 x 4" x 6" Steel Panels
- Laboratory Room Temperature – 26-28 °C

Step	Function	Chamber Air Temp (°C)	RH (%)	Step Time (hh:mm)	Ramp
1	FOG	35		0:35	
2	RINSE	35		0:05	
3	FOG	35		0:05	
4	RH	35	20	1:40	Linear 1:30
5	RH	35	55	1:35	Auto
6	Subcycle*				
7	RH	35	90	1:20	Auto
8	RH	35	55	2:40	Auto
9	Final Step – Go To Step 1				

\*Step 6: Subcycle Repeat Steps 7-8 5x

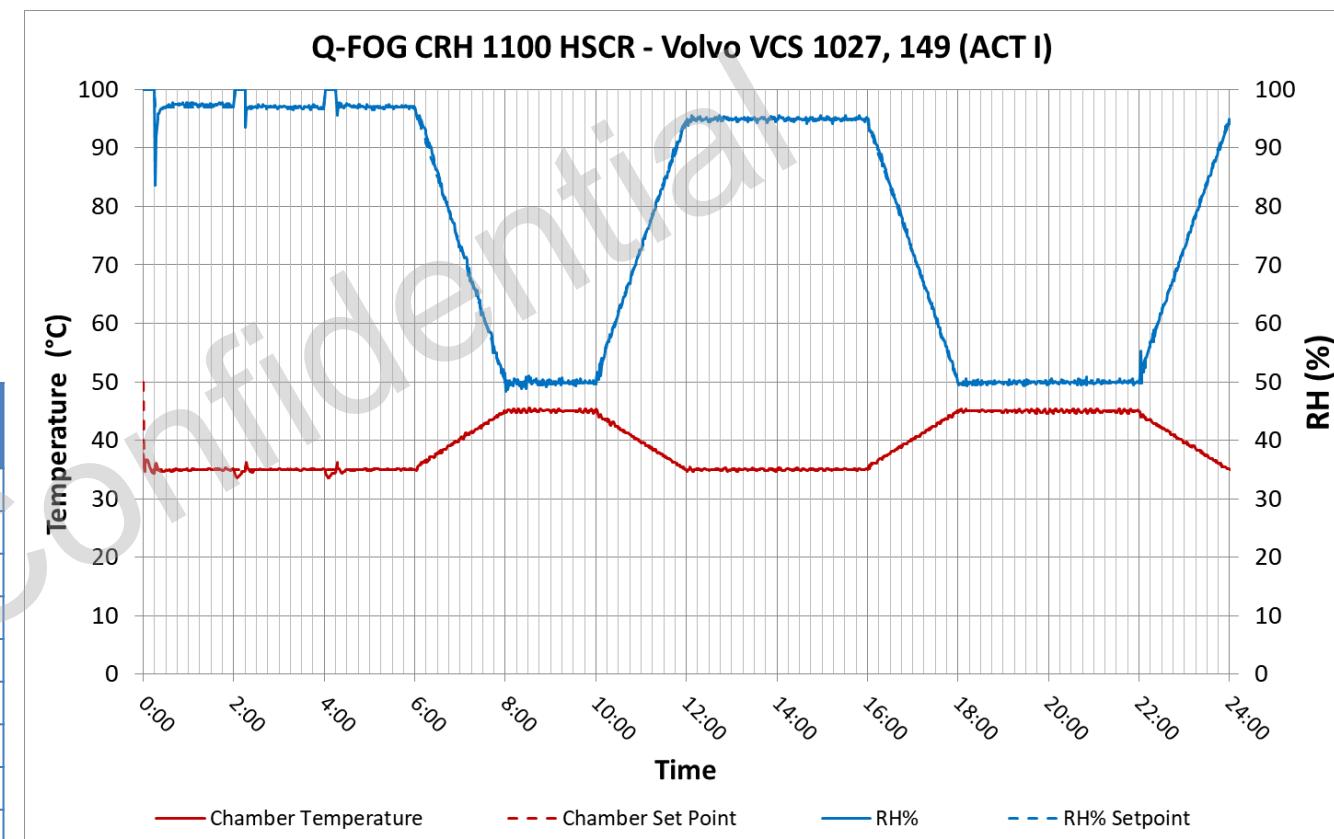


# Volvo VCS 1027, 149 (ACT I)

- Chamber Volume – 1100 l
- Chamber Load – Empty
- Laboratory Room Temperature – 22-25 °C

Step	Function	Chamber Air Temp (°C)	RH (%)	Step Time (hh:mm)	Ramp
1	Subcycle*				
2	SHOWER	35		0:15	
3	RH	35	97	1:45	Auto
4	RH	45	50	4:00	Linear 2:00
5	RH	35	95	2:00	Linear 2:00
6	Subcycle**				
7	RH	35	95	4:00	
8	RH	45	50	6:00	Linear 2:00
9	RH	35	95	2:00	Linear 2:00
10	Final Step – Go To Step 1				

\*Step 1: Subcycle Repeat Steps 2-3 3x  
 \*\*Step 6: Subcycle Repeat Steps 7-9 7x

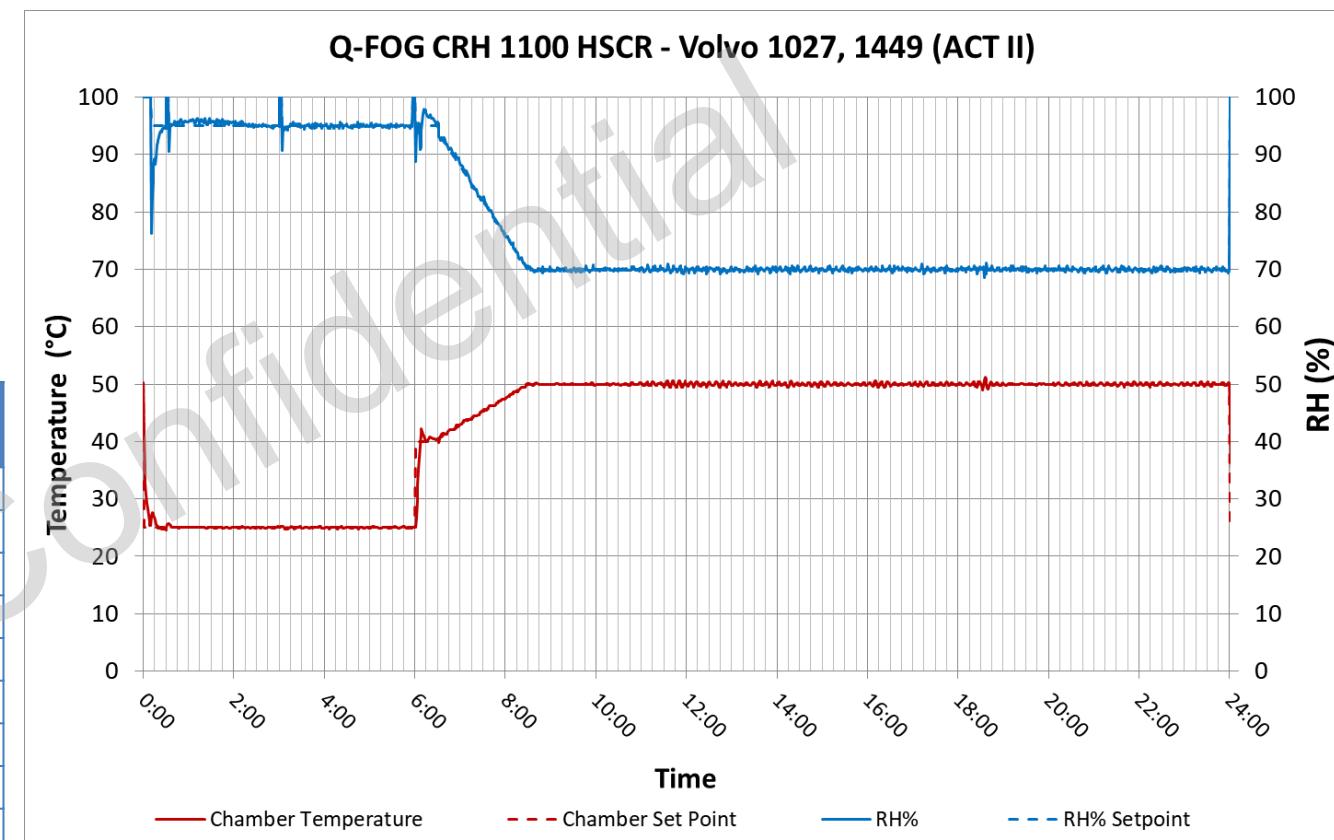


# Volvo VCS 1027, 1449 (ACT-II)/Ford L-467

- Chamber Volume – 1100 l
- Chamber Load – Empty
- Laboratory Room Temperature – 22-25 °C

Step	Function	Chamber Air Temp (°C)	RH (%)	Step Time (hh:mm)	Ramp
1	Subcycle*				
2	SHOWER	25		0:10	
3	RH	25	95	0:20	Auto
4	SHOWER	25		0:03	
5	RH	25	95	2:27	Auto
6	SHOWER	25		0:03	
7	RH	25	95	2:54	Auto
8	SHOWER	25		0:03	
9	RH	40	95	0:30	< 0:30
10	RH	50	70	17:30	Linear 2:00
11	RH	50	70	48:00	Auto
12	Final Step – Go To Step 1				

\*Step 1: Subcycle Repeat Steps 2-10 5x

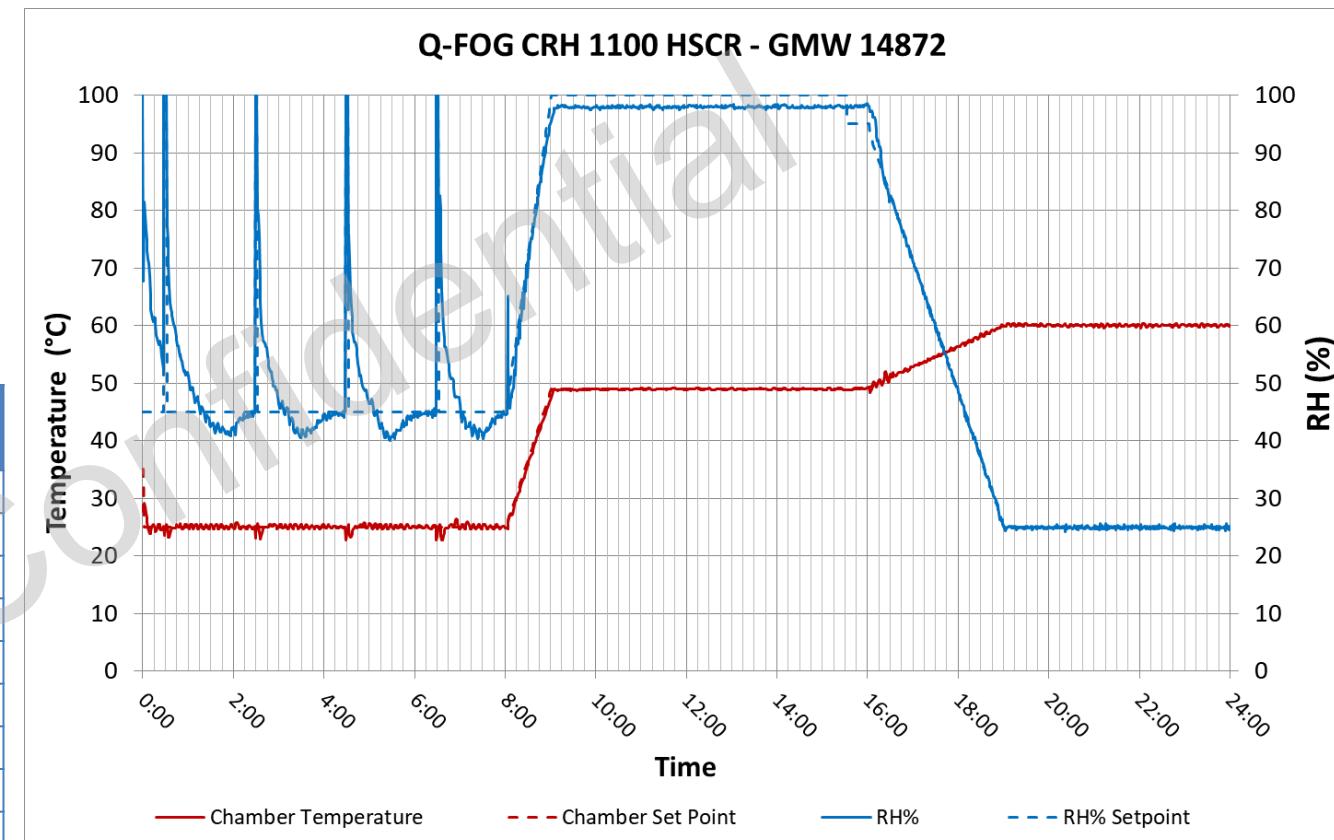


# GMW 14872

- Chamber Volume – 1100 l
- Chamber Load – Empty
- Laboratory Room Temperature – 22-25°C

Step	Function	Chamber Air Temp (°C)	RH (%)	Step Time (hh:mm)	Ramp
1	Subcycle*				
2	RH	25	45	0:27	Auto
3	SHOWER	25		0:03	
4	RH	25	45	1:30	Auto
5	RH	49	100	7:30	Linear 1:00
6	RH	49	95	0:30	Auto
7	RH	60	25	8:00	Linear 3:00
8	Final Step – Go To Step 1				

\*Step 1: Subcycle Repeat Steps 2-4 4x



# Question?



[kqu@q-lab.com](mailto:kqu@q-lab.com)

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