The 10-Question AI Production-Readiness Diagnostic

Use this diagnostic to decide what has to be demonstrated before one enterprise AI workflow moves into production or widens its authority. Assess the implemented path and its proposed scope. Every answer should point to evidence another person can inspect.

Workflow and proposed production scope

Business owner, technical lead, control owner, and review date

HOW TO COMPLETE THE DIAGNOSTIC

Have the business owner, technical lead and control owner each mark answers on their own first. Then agree one answer per question, and note any disagreement. Record an evidence reference or the precise gap for each. Store references to controlled evidence; don't copy sensitive records into this worksheet.

Yes means implemented and demonstrated. **Partial** means a defined gap remains. **No** means absent. **Unknown** means nobody can produce evidence. For a control that doesn't apply, record the scope boundary and the control owner's acceptance. Never mark Yes for an untested or excluded control.

PART ONE / OWNERSHIP AND INFORMATION

01 Is there an owner and a measurable outcome?

A named business owner can change the workflow and accept results. Measures define the baseline, target, eligible population, human review and exceptions.

EVIDENCE TO INSPECT

Show the owner's decision rights and outcome measure. A sponsor without workflow authority is insufficient.

☐ Yes ☐ Partial ☐ No ☐ Unknown

EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR PRECISE GAP

02 Are the information dependencies certified?

Approved data products have owners, interfaces, quality and freshness expectations, and lineage. Current evidence shows that dependencies meet this workflow's requirements.

EVIDENCE TO INSPECT

Show approved contracts and current quality and freshness results. A catalog entry alone is insufficient.

☐ Yes ☐ Partial ☐ No ☐ Unknown

EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR PRECISE GAP

PART TWO / MEANING, KNOWLEDGE AND AUTHORITY

Can the system establish what it knows, and what it is permitted to do?

ASSESS THE SAME WORKFLOW AND SCOPE RECORDED ON PAGE ONE · MARK ONE ANSWER AND GIVE AN EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR A PRECISE GAP

03 Is business meaning approved and tested?

An accountable owner approves entities, metrics, relationships and exceptions. Versioned definitions specify grain and context, and known-answer tests check that the intended meaning is applied.

EVIDENCE TO INSPECT

Show definition approval and test results, including context selection where several definitions are valid.

☐ Yes ☐ Partial ☐ No ☐ Unknown

EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR PRECISE GAP _____

04 Does the knowledge path preserve source controls?

Retrieved knowledge is applicable, current, authorized and traceable to sources. Controls handle permission revocation, document replacement and deletion, and stale indexes.

EVIDENCE TO INSPECT

Show source-control tests. If retrieval is outside scope, record the boundary and the control owner's acceptance.

☐ Yes ☐ Partial ☐ No ☐ Unknown

EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR PRECISE GAP _____

05 Is identity enforced through the complete path?

Caller and agent authority is bounded at every enforcement point, including tools, APIs, databases, retrieval and caches. Tenant boundaries remain intact.

EVIDENCE TO INSPECT

Show denied-access, revoked-user and isolation tests across the complete request path.

☐ Yes ☐ Partial ☐ No ☐ Unknown

EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR PRECISE GAP _____

06 Is the agent limited to approved capabilities?

Every tool has an owner, a defined interface and an approved action scope. A read request cannot become an unauthorized write or bypass policy through another tool.

EVIDENCE TO INSPECT

Show the tool inventory, side effects, approval rules, and tests of actions the agent must refuse.

☐ Yes ☐ Partial ☐ No ☐ Unknown

EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR PRECISE GAP _____

PART THREE / RELEASE EVIDENCE AND OPERATION

Can you show what happened, and keep it running?

ASSESS THE SAME WORKFLOW AND SCOPE RECORDED ON PAGE ONE · MARK ONE ANSWER AND GIVE AN EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR A PRECISE GAP

07 Does evaluation block an unsafe release?

Versioned tests set thresholds for useful results, refusals and attacks such as prompt injection. Failed controls block release, and material changes trigger re-evaluation.

EVIDENCE TO INSPECT

Show test results, the release gate, failure cases, and the person authorized to stop a release.

☐ Yes ☐ Partial ☐ No ☐ Unknown

EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR PRECISE GAP _____

08 Can one request be reconstructed?

A reviewer can trace authority, sources, component versions, policy decisions, result and outcome. Evidence has defined retention and reviewer access without unnecessary sensitive logging.

EVIDENCE TO INSPECT

Walk through a real request trace. Show what is retained, who can inspect it, and any evidence gaps.

☐ Yes ☐ Partial ☐ No ☐ Unknown

EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR PRECISE GAP _____

09 Can the service fail safely and recover?

Operating limits, support ownership, service and freshness objectives, rollback and recovery are defined. Source, policy or tool failure produces a safe response.

EVIDENCE TO INSPECT

Show recovery and escalation tests. For writes, include duplicate protection and remediation of incorrect actions.

☐ Yes ☐ Partial ☐ No ☐ Unknown

EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR PRECISE GAP _____

10 Can the internal team operate it economically?

The team tracks cost per completed useful task, adoption and business results. Internal owners support the service, review changes and fund recurring maintenance.

EVIDENCE TO INSPECT

Show costs, operating limits, support responsibilities, handover evidence, and the criteria to expand, change or stop.

☐ Yes ☐ Partial ☐ No ☐ Unknown

EVIDENCE REFERENCE OR PRECISE GAP _____

PART FOUR / THE DECISION

Turn the answers into a release decision.

Count the answers to see how evidence and gaps are spread. Don't turn the count into a percentage readiness score. A critical control failure can outweigh nine demonstrated capabilities. This is a discussion aid. It isn't a certification.

YES	PARTIAL	NO	UNKNOWN
demonstrated	defined gap	absent	no evidence

TOTALS SHOULD ADD TO TEN

Any unresolved failure in access, isolation, unauthorized actions, data integrity or the evidence for those controls blocks the affected release. Other gaps need explicit owners, closure criteria and a decision that fits the proposed scope.

Ten Yes answers support a review of the evidence. They don't authorize production on their own. The accountable business and control owners still make the release decision under the organization's approval process.

Close the most consequential gaps first

Record each unresolved item in the team action log. Use the rows below for the highest-priority gaps. Define the evidence that will demonstrate closure, not the task to perform.

PRIORITY 1

Question _____ Owner _____

Gap _____ Target date _____

Evidence required to demonstrate closure _____

PRIORITY 2

Question _____ Owner _____

Gap _____ Target date _____

Evidence required to demonstrate closure _____

PRIORITY 3

Question _____ Owner _____

Gap _____ Target date _____

Evidence required to demonstrate closure _____

Decision for this scope, and the accountable approvers

THEN Repeat this when the workflow, users, sources, tools or agent authority materially change. To work through the three most consequential gaps with us, book a session at **rjlsol.com/contact** or write to **rwhite@rjlsol.com**.