

Is This Finding Actually Ready to Close?

A 10-point decision checklist for teams that need a closure package to survive scrutiny - not merely sound complete.

HOW TO USE

Mark YES only when the claim can be defended by an accountable owner and traced to current evidence. A partial answer is a work item, not a closure condition. Add the named record or decision next to each gate.

01**REQUIREMENT AND BOUNDARY**☐ NO ☐ PARTIAL ☐ YES

Can the team point to the exact requirement, affected asset or process, scope boundary, and testable closure condition?

RECORD citation / system / boundary: _____

02**ROOT CAUSE**☐ NO ☐ PARTIAL ☐ YES

Is the cause supported by analysis and tied to the failed condition - rather than restating the finding in different words?

RECORD root-cause statement: _____

03**IMPLEMENTED CHANGE**☐ NO ☐ PARTIAL ☐ YES

Is the remediation operating in the production-relevant environment, with planned work clearly separated from completed work?

RECORD change record / release: _____

04**OWNERSHIP**☐ NO ☐ PARTIAL ☐ YES

Is one accountable owner named for the control, its exceptions, and its continued operation after the closure decision?

RECORD control owner: _____

05**EVIDENCE**☐ NO ☐ PARTIAL ☐ YES

Does current, traceable evidence directly support every material sentence in the closure narrative?

RECORD evidence index / location: _____

06

VALIDATION

☐ NO ☐ PARTIAL ☐ YES

Has someone sufficiently separate from implementation tested both the design and the claimed operating result?

RECORD validator / method / date: _____

07

SUSTAINMENT AND MONITORING

☐ NO ☐ PARTIAL ☐ YES

Are frequency, alerting, exception handling, evidence retention, escalation, and management reporting defined?

RECORD monitor / cadence / owner: _____

08

DEPENDENCIES

☐ NO ☐ PARTIAL ☐ YES

Have third-party, shared-control, contract, data, and upstream or downstream dependencies been resolved or made explicit?

RECORD dependency / disposition: _____

09

RESIDUAL RISK

☐ NO ☐ PARTIAL ☐ YES

Are remaining limitations stated plainly, assessed at the correct level, and accepted by the authorized risk owner?

RECORD risk decision / approver: _____

10

DECISION AUTHORITY

☐ NO ☐ PARTIAL ☐ YES

Is the person authorized to accept closure clear, and is the package framed for the decision that person can actually make?

RECORD decision authority / forum: _____

CLOSURE DECISION

Do not average the answers. A single unsupported material claim can make the package unready.

READY TO PRESENT

All ten gates are YES; evidence is current; authority and dependencies are clear.

NOT READY

Any material gate is NO, or a closure claim cannot be traced to evidence.

READY WITH RESIDUAL RISK

Only when limitations are explicit and the authorized risk owner accepts them.

WHEN ONE CONSEQUENTIAL QUESTION REMAINS

High-Stakes Second Opinion - \$4,500 fixed fee. A focused review of one consequential question, one working session, and a written opinion with the reasoning and next actions.

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IMPORTANT BOUNDARIES

Nerthus provides advisory, architecture, readiness, documentation, remediation, and decision support. This checklist is not legal advice, an audit opinion, certification, attestation, a formal authorizing-official decision, or QSA work. Use does not guarantee finding closure, authorization, certification, procurement, or a transaction.

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