

Human Oversight Reality Check

20 Questions for High-Impact AI-Assisted Decisions

Read

Listen

OPERATE

Intake

Review

01 Evidence & Framing

- 1 What evidence was accessible to the reviewer at the time?
- 2 What material information was missing, delayed or disputed?
- 3 Which alternatives remained genuinely open for consideration?
- 4 What uncertainty and trade-offs were acknowledged contemporaneously?
- 5 Could the rationale be reconstructed later from the available record?

02 Reviewer Capability

- 6 Could the reviewer challenge the recommendation or its assumptions?
- 7 Could they request further evidence or clarification?
- 8 Could they pause or modify the decision route before effect?
- 9 Could they refuse the proposed action without procedural penalty?
- 10 Did they have sufficient time to exercise judgement meaningfully?

03 Authority & Escalation

- 11 Was the reviewer's authority proportionate to the consequence?
- 12 At what point did the decision exceed their mandate?
- 13 Was escalation operationally usable before effect?
- 14 Who had authority to accept the final exposure?
- 15 What happened if escalation received no timely response?

04 Commitment & Reconstruction

- 16 Who made the final attributable commitment?
- 17 Was that commitment recorded contemporaneously?
- 18 Was non-escalation visible in the evidence?
- 19 Did intervention remain possible after deployment?
- 20 Can the complete decision route be reconstructed under scrutiny?

CORE DISTINCTION

Reviewer presence is not the same as reviewer capability.

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