AI Infrastructure Readiness

12 questions before a pilot becomes a production commitment

Use one checklist per workload. Record evidence and an accountable owner; assumptions are not approval. Mark each item Ready, Action needed, or Hold.

01 BUSINESS OUTCOME

What business result must this workload deliver, and who accepts it?

Evidence: Named sponsor, baseline, target and acceptance date.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

02 WORKLOAD BOUNDARY

Are we serving a model, tuning one, or training one? What is in scope?

Evidence: Workload profile, model choice, demand and latency assumptions.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

03 PLACEMENT DECISION

Why does this workload belong in cloud, colocation, on premises or a hybrid?

Evidence: Options comparison covering data access, latency, capacity and operating needs.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

04 CAPACITY EVIDENCE

Can the chosen platform supply the required resources when needed?

Evidence: Validated capacity, quotas or reservations, lead times and an alternative.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

05 POWER AND COOLING

For equipment we operate or colocate, have the facility constraints been checked?

Evidence: Facility and hardware owners approve rack power, cooling and delivery assumptions.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

06 DATA PATH

Can data reach the workload securely and fast enough for the actual use case?

Evidence: Tested connectivity, transfer volumes, bandwidth and storage throughput.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

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07 DATA PERMISSION

Who owns the data, approves its use and controls retention?

Evidence: Approved datasets, permitted uses, classification and deletion procedure.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

08 ACCESS AND SECURITY

Who can deploy, administer, retrieve data and approve exceptions?

Evidence: Role assignments, identity controls, logging and an exception owner.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

09 EVALUATION GATE

What evidence shows the system meets quality and performance requirements?

Evidence: Representative tests, thresholds, failure cases and acceptance owner.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

10 OPERATING OWNERSHIP

Who responds to service, data, model and platform failures after release?

Evidence: Runbooks, alerts, escalation paths, supplier boundaries and support coverage.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

11 COST AND ACTION

What changes the run cost, and who can act when consumption rises?

Evidence: Cost assumptions, usage limits, alert routing and authority to pause or scale.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

12 RELEASE AND RECOVERY

Can we release in stages, reverse a change and restore a usable service?

Evidence: Release gates, fallback procedure, recovery test and next review date.

Status: R / A / H Owner: _____

Readiness decision record

Make the evidence, ownership and decision explicit

Workload: _____ Review date: _____

Sponsor: _____ Review lead: _____

Check	R/A/H	Owner	Evidence / next action
01 Business outcome			
02 Workload boundary			
03 Placement decision			
04 Capacity evidence			
05 Power and cooling			
06 Data path			
07 Data permission			
08 Access and security			
09 Evaluation gate			
10 Operating ownership			
11 Cost and action			
12 Release and recovery			

Decision: Proceed within agreed scope / Proceed after actions / Hold

Blocking issue and owner: _____

Next review date: _____ Decision authority: _____

A total count of Ready items is not a readiness score. An unresolved critical issue can justify Hold. This worksheet supports an accountable review; it is not an engineering certification or a substitute for workload-specific testing.

Further reading: Google Cloud, AI and ML perspective - Operational excellence and Reliability; Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework, Manage AI. Full links and the methodology accompany the article. This is an original synthesis; the vendors do not endorse this checklist.