

Your Agents Are Passing Every Test. They'll **Fail Every Audit.**

Most organisations pick a model before deciding which tasks are even fit for autonomous execution. TRACE is the five-question filter that comes first.

SWIPE →

Five checks, before architecture

T Traceability of every input and output

R Reversibility and risk tier

A Acceptance criteria, defined up front

C Compliance and regulatory mapping

E Escalation and override pathway

3–5

Cap the first deployment at three to five tasks.

An initial cohort this small lets leaders monitor closely before any organisation scales autonomous agents further.

90

Review the audit logs every ninety days.

A fixed interval turns auditability from a design-time aspiration into an operating discipline, sampled against the original acceptance criteria.

2

Fail two or more of the five TRACE criteria, and the task stays in a manual or assisted workflow until it's remediated — regardless of technical feasibility.



Leadership responsibility in this phase is not technical sponsorship. It is the act of slowing the organisation down at the correct point.

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Two ways to start an agent programme

THE COMMON SEQUENCE

Select a platform

Build the agent

Retrofit governance after

THE TRACE SEQUENCE

Score the task against TRACE

Classify its risk tier

Then select architecture

This is a sequencing problem, not a technology problem.

Organisations proceed straight to model selection and prompt engineering without first establishing whether a task is structurally appropriate for delegation to an autonomous agent. That sequencing error, not model quality, is the principal cause of downstream audit failure.

Nine checks, before you pick a vendor



Full TRACE framework and the free scoring tool:
terencekok.com/blog/beginning-your-journey-identifying-tasks-quality-traceable-auditable-ai-agents

Score your first task before you build anything.

The TRACE framework and the free evaluation tool are live now.



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