

GATE 0 PLUS THE FIVE GATES BETWEEN A CLEAN RUN AND A DEPLOYABLE SYSTEM

# Demo-to-deployment gate

Take the exact action you watched in one agent demo and run it through six gates. Mark Pass only when you can name the concrete control, not when you assume one exists.

**BRING** One agent demo, and the single action you saw it perform

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## Six gates for the action you watched

If a gate cannot be answered crisply, the demo is useful exploration, not deployment proof. Treat each gap as design work nobody has done yet.

**1 Gate 0 - Representative task distribution**

Does the demo task resemble the task you intend to deploy? Name the sample the demo drew from and how far it sits from the wide, adversarial set launch will face.

Pass  Block

**2 Gate 1 - Verifier**

What independently checks the output? A constraint checker for hard rules, plus a separate evaluator or human reviewer for ambiguous quality - structurally different from the generator.

Pass  Block

**3 Gate 2 - Containment boundary**

What can the system do without approval? An explicit action-class allow-list that lets it draft and price but blocks purchase, cancellation, deletion or commitment.

Pass  Block

**4 Gate 3 - Severity tier**

How is each action graded by potential damage? Low for search and draft, medium for holds, high for payment, cancellation and non-refundable commitments - with stronger review at the top.

Pass  Block

**5 Gate 4 - Audit trail**

What does the run record? Inputs, retrieved sources, tool calls, validator failures, model versions, approvals and final actions, so the run can be reconstructed after a dispute.

Pass  Block

**6 Gate 5 - Stopping rule**

When does the agent halt rather than improvise? Missing required fields, disagreeing validators, inconsistent tool state, budget or latency caps, or a crossed severity boundary.

Pass  Block

**VERDICT ON THIS ACTION - DEPLOYABLE, OR DESIGN WORK OUTSTANDING - AND OWNER**

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## Notes - which gates the demo was hiding

Record which gates failed and what engineering each missing control implies before launch can become a date.

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Companion worksheet to **Essay 03 · Demo Is Not Deployment**, in the series **Architecting the AI Coworker**. · Dr Peter McCann Strain · Fill this in against one real agent, action class or vendor. © 2026 Peter McCann Strain.

Series Companion + all 22 worksheets: **Release\_v12/Series\_Companion.pdf**