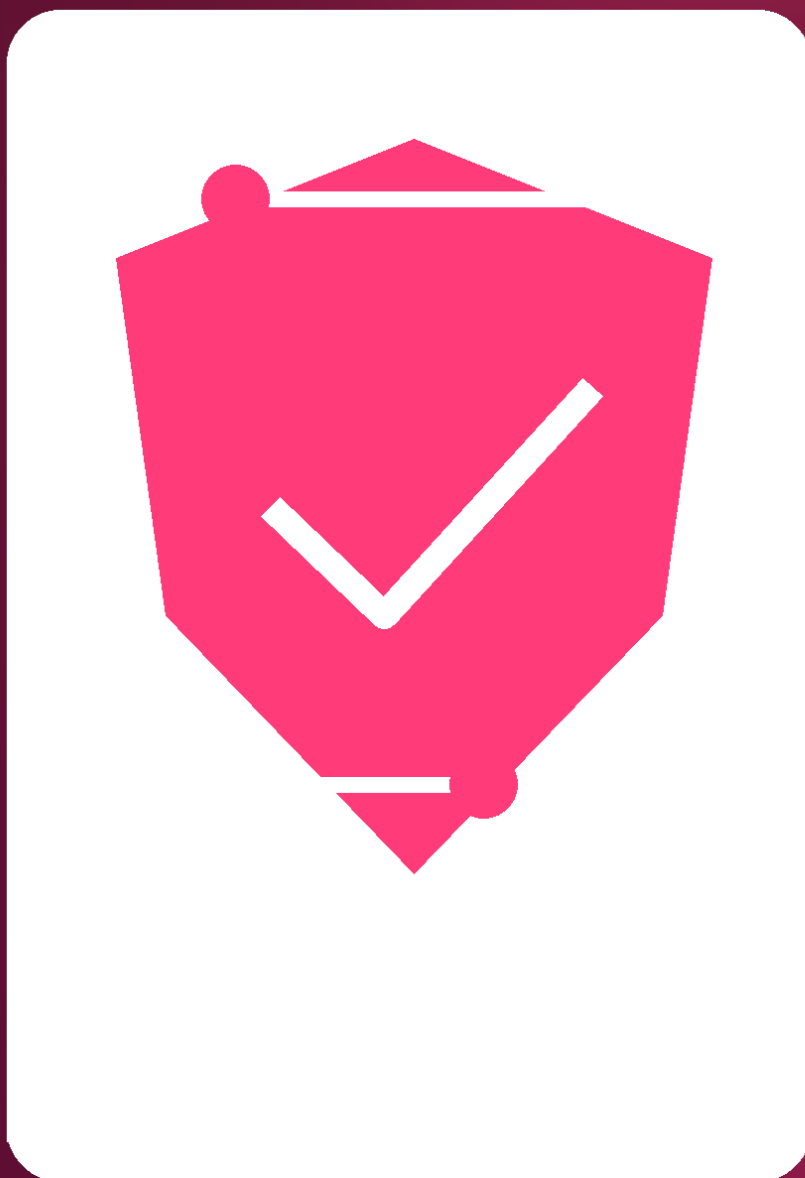


Control Design Evaluation Tool

Decide whether a control is capable of preventing or detecting the stated risk.



PRACTICAL • WORKABLE • READY TO USE

1. Purpose & When to Use It

Use this tool before operating-effectiveness testing. It helps determine whether a control is well designed enough to address the risk in the first place.

Testing a poorly designed control wastes audit effort. First determine whether the control has the right owner, frequency, evidence, precision and response.

How to use this tool

1. Define the audit question or decision you need to support.
2. Complete the inputs using evidence available at the time - do not wait for perfect information.
3. Apply the scoring or decision logic on the next page.
4. Record the rationale behind important judgments.
5. Update the tool when new evidence changes the risk or conclusion.

Core Inputs

1. Risk being addressed	
2. Control objective	
3. Control activity	
4. Owner	
5. Frequency / trigger	
6. Preventive or detective	
7. Manual or automated	
8. Evidence retained	
9. Threshold / precision	
10. Exception follow-up	

2. Decision / Scoring Matrix

Use the matrix as a disciplined prompt for judgment. Adapt thresholds to your organization where necessary.

Design element	0 - Missing	1 - Partial	2 - Adequate
Risk linkage	No link	Indirect	Direct
Ownership	Unclear	Shared	Named accountable owner
Frequency	Too late / infrequent	Sometimes adequate	Matches risk timing
Evidence	None	Inconsistent	Retained and reviewable
Precision	Too broad	Some thresholds	Specific enough to detect/prevent risk
Exception response	None	Informal	Defined and tracked

Judgment Notes

3. Working Sheet

Complete this page during planning, fieldwork or issue validation. Keep entries brief and evidence-based.

Risk being addressed	
Control objective	
Control activity	
Owner	
Frequency / trigger	
Preventive or detective	
Manual or automated	
Evidence retained	

4. Worked Example

The example below shows the level of detail the tool is designed for. Replace it with your own engagement information.

Risk	Duplicate supplier payments
Control	AP system duplicate invoice check plus weekly exception report review
Design concern	Same invoice with altered reference may bypass exact-match rule
Improvement	Use multiple matching fields and require documented weekly exception closure.

Auditor Reflection

What conclusion would you draw from this example? What evidence would you request next?

5. Quick Reference

Five reminders to keep the tool practical and audit-ready.

- 1** Never describe a policy as a control unless an action enforces it.
- 2** A detective control must operate fast enough to matter.
- 3** Evidence should prove both performance and review.
- 4** Thresholds should be precise enough to identify meaningful exceptions.
- 5** Confirm what happens after an exception is found.

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