

DCSA

Data Center Field Readiness Review

Twelve Questions Before Consequential Work

Field purpose

Use this review to test whether the approved plan still matches the equipment, people, system state, work area, and surrounding activity. It supports the controlling procedures and qualified technical review. It does not replace them.

Prepared by Charles R. Rickwald

Data Center Safety Academy

datacentersafetyacademy.com

How to Use This Review

Complete the review at the work face with the people who will perform, direct, authorize, observe, and verify the work. Point to the actual equipment and boundary. Compare the field condition with the current drawing, procedure, permit, and brief.

Rating	Meaning
READY	The condition is confirmed and supported by current evidence.
VERIFY	Information or evidence is missing. Close the gap before exposure or transition.
STOP	The plan, authority, equipment, boundary, control, or field condition is invalid or uncertain.
N A	The item does not apply, and the basis for that decision is understood and documented.

Decision rule

This is not a point-scoring exercise. One unresolved critical condition can invalidate the work. A STOP rating means stabilize the work and resolve the issue through the controlling process. VERIFY means obtain the missing evidence before proceeding.

Project or site _____

Task or activity _____

Location and equipment _____

Procedure permit or work package _____

Date time and review leader _____

1 Scope and exclusions

Can every person explain what the job includes, what it excludes, and where the work begins and ends?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check Approved scope, latest revision, equipment list, drawings, marked boundary, exclusions, and crew explanation.

Stop and resolve when The crew, procedure, permit, or field boundary describes different work.

2 Present system and area condition

Does the documented starting condition match what is physically present now?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check Walkdown, lineup, valve position, alarms, indications, temporary conditions, access, housekeeping, weather, and current operating status.

Stop and resolve when An indication, configuration, condition, or access route differs from the plan.

3 Equipment identity and boundary

Have the correct equipment and every affected physical and operational boundary been positively identified?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check Exact identifiers, labels, drawings, room and system boundaries, restricted areas, adjacent equipment, and field verification.

Stop and resolve when A label is missing, inconsistent, ambiguous, or does not match the controlling document.

4 All energy sources

Does the plan address normal, alternate, temporary, stored, induced, remote, and automatic energy?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check One-lines, schematics, temporary feeds, batteries, capacitors, UPS systems, generators, backfeeds, pressure, gravity, thermal energy, controls, and remote commands.

Stop and resolve when Any credible source, stored-energy path, or automatic action is uncertain or omitted.

5 Custody and authority

Is it clear who owns the equipment state and who may authorize, direct, perform, verify, stop, and restore the work?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check Named people and roles, custody transfer, operating authority, switching authority, work authority, permit issuer, verifier, and escalation path.

Stop and resolve when Two parties claim authority, no authorized person is available, or responsibility is assumed rather than assigned.

6 Task steps hazards and controls

Do the work steps show where exposure occurs and what observable control prevents or limits it?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check Step sequence, credible hazard scenarios, elimination or substitution, physical barriers, isolation, positioning, tools, access control, and PPE for residual exposure.

Stop and resolve when The analysis uses broad labels or reminders such as be careful without changing the exposure.

7 Prerequisites and evidence

Are all prerequisites complete, and can the team show the evidence?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check Approved documents, qualifications, inspections, test results, rescue capability, lockbox inventory, fire protection, communications, tools, and field walk.

Stop and resolve when A prerequisite is supported only by assumption, memory, or we should be good.

8 Hold points indications and verification

Are mandatory pauses placed before consequential transitions, with expected indications and release authority defined?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check Hold-point owner, acceptance criteria, instrument or control-room indication, independent check, test result, and documented release.

Stop and resolve when The expected indication is absent, contradictory, unexplained, or accepted without the required verifier.

9 Simultaneous work and interfaces

Have nearby work, testing, deliveries, impairments, access restrictions, and owner operations been reconciled?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check SIMOPS review, permit conflicts, overhead and adjacent work, lift paths, logistics, fire-protection status, egress, noise, dust, water, and test windows.

Stop and resolve when Another activity defeats a control, changes the boundary, blocks egress, or creates an unreviewed combined condition.

10 Communications and stop criteria

Does the crew know the exact words, identifiers, communication method, and conditions that require a stop?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check Repeat-backs, radio channel, control-room contact, equipment naming, lost-communication response, planned stop triggers, and rebrief triggers.

Stop and resolve when A critical instruction could be misunderstood, communication is unreliable, or any person cannot explain the control protecting them.

11 Safe stop rollback and emergency response

Can the work be placed in a stable condition if the sequence fails, conditions change, or an emergency occurs?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check Safe stop state, abort and rollback steps, suspended-load or open-system control, alarm impairment response, rescue, evacuation, emergency contacts, and decision authority.

Stop and resolve when The team would have to improvise during an abnormal condition or abandon equipment in an unstable state.

12 Restoration and closeout

Does the plan account for people, tools, temporary devices, alarms, barriers, records, system state, and post-work monitoring?

READY	VERIFY	STOP	N A

Evidence to check Personnel and tool count, grounds, jumpers, bypasses, overrides, covers, valves, alarms, fire protection, housekeeping, turnover records, and monitored return to service.

Stop and resolve when The work could be closed by time or paperwork without physically confirming restoration.

Readiness Decision and Action Record

Record the decision after the twelve questions are discussed and the field condition is checked. Do not use this page to approve work beyond your authority.

READY TO PROCEED	All applicable critical conditions are verified and the controlling authorization remains valid.
PROCEED AFTER VERIFICATION	List each evidence gap below and close it before exposure or transition.
STOP AND RESOLVE	Stabilize the work and use the controlling change, escalation, or reapproval process.
NOT APPLICABLE	Document why this review does not govern the activity.

Open items and required evidence

Authorization and rebrief

Review leader _____ Date and time _____

Required authority or approver _____ Release received _____

Affected workers rebriefed by _____ Date and time _____

Charlie's field note

The clock reaching the scheduled start time has never verified a source, cleared a lift path, restored an alarm, or made a bad plan valid. Readiness comes from evidence.

Continue With DCSA Fundamentals

This review is drawn from the planning and operational-discipline method taught in the DCSA Data Center Construction Safety Fundamentals Founding Edition by Charles R. Rickwald.

The 250-page book explains the systems, hazards, transitions, authority, and field decisions that make data-center construction different. It includes 12 chapters, conceptual diagrams, worked field cases, decision tools, knowledge checks, and explained answers.

Learn more

Visit datacentersafetyacademy.com for the DCSA Data Center Construction Safety Fundamentals Founding Edition and future course availability.

About Data Center Safety Academy

Data Center Safety Academy develops practical education for the people who build, supervise, commission, support, and turn over mission-critical infrastructure. DCSA focuses on how work behaves in the field: system state, energy, authority, boundaries, simultaneous operations, verification, change, and restoration.

Questions or team-training inquiries charlie@datacentersafetyacademy.com

Educational and Safety Boundary

This field review provides educational support. It does not replace applicable law, employer programs, owner requirements, site rules, engineered plans, manufacturer instructions, approved procedures, permits, qualified-person determinations, supervision, or task-specific authorization. Conditions and requirements change. Follow the controlling authority and current approved work process.

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