# Software Quality Consulting

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# **Design Inspection Checklist**

## **High-Level Design**

### **General Requirements and Design**

- I. Has review of the design identified problems with the requirements, such as missing requirements, ambiguous requirements, extraneous requirements, untestable requirements, or implied requirements?
- 2. Is the design consistent with the requirements? For example, are there:
  - missing functions
  - extraneous functions
  - · imprecise, ambiguous, or incorrect functions
- 3. Are deviations from the requirements documented and approved?
- 4. Are all assumptions documented?
- 5. Have major design decisions been documented?
- 6. Is the design consistent with these decisions?
- 7. Does the design adequately address the following:
  - real-time requirements
  - performance issues (memory and timing)
  - spare capacity (CPU and memory)
  - maintainability
  - understandability
  - database requirements
  - loading and initialization
  - · error handling and recovery
  - user interface issues
  - software upgrades

#### **Functional and Interface Specifications**

- 8. Is the P-spec for each process accurate and complete?
- 9. Is it specified in precise, unambiguous terms? Does it clearly describe the required transformations?
- **10.** Are dependencies on other functions, Operating system kernel, hardware, etc., identified and documented?
- **II.** Are human factors considerations properly addressed in those functions that provide the user interface?
- 12. Are design constraints, such as memory and timing budgets, specified where appropriate?

- 13. Are requirements for error checking, error handling and recovery specified where needed?
- 14. Are interfaces consistent with module usage? Missing interfaces? Extra interfaces?
- 15. Are the interfaces specified to a sufficient level of detail that allows them to be verified?

#### Conventions

16. Does the design follow the established notation conventions?

## **Detailed** Design

#### **Requirements Traceability**

- I. Does the detailed design of this module or interface fulfill its part of the requirements?
- 2. Has the inspection of this module or interface identified problems in the SRS? For example, missing requirements, ambiguous requirements, conflicting requirements, untestable requirements, implied requirements?
- 3. Does the detailed design of this module or interface meet its high level design requirements?
- 4. Has the inspection of the detailed design identified problems in the high level design?
- 5. Are all functions completely and accurately described in sufficient detail?
- **6.** Are all interfaces completely and accurately described, including keyword or positional parameters, field descriptors, attributes, ranges, and limits?
- 7. Are the detailed design documents complete and consistent within themselves; data with logic; all internal data defined; no extraneous data?

#### **Structure and Interfaces**

- **8.** At a system and subsystem level, have all components or modules been identified on a System Architecture Model?
- 9. Is the level of decomposition sufficient to identify all modules?
- 10. Will further decomposition result in identifying more modules?
- **II.** Have all interfaces between system/subsystem elements and modules been clearly and precisely identified?
- 12. Do successive levels of decomposition result in successive levels of detail?
- 13. Are modules performing more than one specific function?

#### Logic

15. Are there logic errors?

#### 16. Are...

- all unique values tested?
- all positional values tested?
- increment and loop counters properly initialized?
- variables and data areas initialized before use?

17. Has the module been inspected for...

- correct begin and end of table processing?
- correct processing of queues across interrupts?
- correct decision table logic?
- correct precision/accuracy of calculations?
- 18. Are message priorities allocated properly to ensure the correct execution of code?
- 19. Is the message processing sequence correct?
- **20.** Are there errors in handling data, data buffers, or tables, incorrect field updated, conflicting use of data areas, incomplete initialization or update, inconsistent or invalid data attributes?
- **21.** Are procedure call and return interfaces correctly defined; Call and return parameters defined correctly; Correct syntax?

#### Performance

22. Are memory and timing budgets reasonable and achievable?

#### **Error Handling and Recovery**

- 23. Is there adequate error condition testing?
- **24.** Are error conditions tested where the probability of an error is high or results of an error would be fatal to the system?
- 25. Are return codes documented?
- 26. Are return messages understandable?
- 27. Does the program allow for successful error recovery...
  - across module or process failures?
  - across operating system failure?
  - across interrupts?
  - across hardware failures?

### **Testability, Extensibility**

28. Is the design ...

- understandable (i.e., easy to read, follow logic)?
- maintainable (i.e., no obscure logic...)?
- testable (can be tested with a reasonable number of tests?

#### **Coupling and Cohesion**

**29.** Evaluate the design using the standard coupling and cohesion criteria, if appropriate.