Automation Readiness Gate

A Hard Stop Before Agents, Workflows, or Autonomy

Before turning any prompt into an agent, a workflow, a loop, a background process, or an autonomous system, every condition below must be true.

1. Manual Reliability Check

- I can run this task manually using a single prompt
- I get consistent, repeatable results
- The output no longer surprises me
- I know what "good" looks like before I see it

2. Specification Completeness

- ROLE is explicit and constrained
- CONTEXT is sufficient and not bloated
- TASK is executable and unambiguous
- OUTPUT SHAPE is predictable and reviewable
- GUARDRAILS prevent speculation, invention, or overreach

3. Output Reviewability

- The output can be reviewed quickly by a human
- Errors are easy to spot
- Assumptions are surfaced, not hidden
- The format supports comparison and auditing

4. Uncertainty Visibility

- The system explicitly flags missing information
- The system distinguishes facts from inferences
- The system can say "unknown" or "insufficient data"
- The system does not force completion when confidence is low

5. Control & Reversibility

- Actions can be paused or stopped
- Outputs can be corrected before execution

- Changes can be reversed
- There is a defined failure state

6. Human Authority Checkpoints

- A human approves before irreversible actions
- A human can override the system
- Responsibility is clearly assigned
- No step relies on "the AI decided"

7. Boundary Definition

- I know exactly what the system is allowed to do
- I know exactly what the system is not allowed to do
- Edge cases are explicitly excluded
- Scope creep is technically blocked, not discouraged

PASS / FAIL RULE

All boxes checked → Automation may proceed

Any box unchecked → Automation is prohibited

There are no partial passes.

If a single prompt still surprises you, an agent will surprise you faster and more expensively.

Govern first. Automate last.

By **Leonardo Pasqualin**