

THE RELEASE READINESS CHECKLIST

15 checks before you ship

The questions worth answering before any release that matters — from someone who signs off on them for a living. Tick honestly. Anything unticked is your risk register.

Scope & requirements

- Every change in this release maps to a requirement, ticket or approved change request — nothing is shipping "because it was in the branch."
- Someone other than the developer has confirmed each change does what the requirement says (not just that it runs).
- Out-of-scope items are explicitly listed, so stakeholders know what this release does NOT include.

Test coverage

- The regression suite has been run in full against the release candidate — not a partial pass on an older build.
- New functionality has dedicated test cases, executed and recorded, including the unhappy paths (bad input, timeouts, permission failures).
- The highest-risk user journeys have been tested end-to-end in an environment that resembles production.
- AI-generated code has had human review on its logic, not just its output — it compiles is not a test.

Defects & known issues

- Zero open critical or high-severity defects — or a written, named acceptance of each one shipping anyway.
- Known issues are documented where support/ops can see them, with workarounds where they exist.

Operational readiness

- There is a rollback plan, it has been tested (or at least rehearsed), and the person executing it knows they own it.
- Monitoring and alerting will tell you within minutes – not via customer complaints – if this release misbehaves.
- Support and stakeholders know the release is happening, what changes, and who to contact when something looks wrong.

Sign-off

- UAT has been completed by someone representing the business, and their acceptance is recorded.
- One named person has reviewed the evidence above and made an explicit go/no-go recommendation.
- That recommendation is written down where it can be found in three months – releases fail quietly; accountability shouldn't.

How did you score?

15/15 – Ship it. This is what evidence-backed release confidence looks like.

12–14 – Shippable, but you're carrying risk someone should consciously accept, in writing.

Under 12 – You're not releasing; you're gambling with your users' trust. Worth a conversation before the next launch, not after it.

Want this done for you, every release?

Sentryia runs the full pass and delivers a written go/no-go recommendation – so your team ships and someone accountable signs. Book a 30-minute conversation at sentryia.com.au, or email hello@sentryia.com.au