StartRisk

Directors One-Hour Risk Maturity Assessment Checklist

Use this checklist to assess an organisation's risk maturity when joining a board. Each section represents a key maturity signal with clear criteria you can score quickly.

Maturity Question	Considerations and Rating
Question 1: Was I onboarded into the risk framework, appetite, and reporting approach?	☐ Clear onboarding pack provided ☐ Explanation of appetite and escalation ☐ Walkthrough of strategic risks ☐ No onboarding / ad-hoc conversation only Rating: _____
Question 2: Does a clear, usable risk appetite exist?	☐ Appetite statement exists and is used in decisions ☐ Appetite integrated into reporting ☐ Appetite known by executives ☐ No written appetite / outdated / theoretical Rating: _____
Question 3: Are risk papers clear, consistent, and decision-ready?	☐ Exception-based reporting ☐ Appetite breaches visible ☐ Trends and insights provided ☐ Reporting inconsistent or overly operational Rating: _____
Question 4: Do I see what matters, or everything?	☐ Only new changes and key issues highlighted ☐ Clear commentary on shifts ☐ Full register included in the board pack (red flag) Rating: _____
Question 5: Is the risk register structured, consistent, and modern?	☐ Single source of truth ☐ Clear event–cause–impact statements ☐ Controls and treatments linked ☐ Register is an Excel document with version issues Rating: _____

Question 6: Are risks clearly assigned and actively managed?	☐ Owners assigned with authority ☐ Escalation paths clear ☐ Ownership held by groups or committees (red flag) Rating: _____
Question 7: Is risk baked into how the organisation operates?	☐ Incorporated into executive meetings ☐ Used in project approvals ☐ Referenced in decisions ☐ Exists only in policy documents Rating: _____
Question 8: Are controls clearly described and validated?	☐ Controls written clearly ☐ Owners and evidence pathways visible ☐ Assurance activity exists ☐ Controls described vaguely (e.g., "regular communication") Rating: _____
Question 9: Is risk technology modern, consistent, and scalable?	☐ Risk system used as single source of truth ☐ Automation or AI supports consistency ☐ Minimal manual admin ☐ Spreadsheet-based risk management Rating: _____
Question 10: How do leaders talk about risk?	☐ Common language used across the team ☐ Appetite referenced naturally ☐ Clear articulation of risks ☐ Risk seen as compliance / afterthought Rating: _____
Question 11: Can executives articulate the organisation's top risks?	☐ Clear and consistent across leaders ☐ Links to appetite and strategy ☐ Varied responses (red flag) Rating: _____
Question 12: Is the risk system evolving?	☐ Recent reviews completed ☐ Reporting improved over time ☐ Lessons learned embedded ☐ Framework untouched for years Rating: _____

Overall Maturity Snapshot
High Maturity:
Consistent, embedded, appetite-driven, systemised
Emerging Maturity:
Framework exists but inconsistent or spreadsheet-driven
Low Maturity:
No appetite, no onboarding, inconsistent reporting, spreadsheet dependency
Overall Rating (High / Emerging / Low): _____

Want an easy way to uplift risk maturity quickly?

StartRisk automates risk consistency, provides AI-generated insights, and gives boards true visibility - without spreadsheets.

Visit **StartRisk.com** to try it free.

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