

How to evaluate an AI drawing review tool

A checklist for MEP firms deciding whether to bring AI into drawing review, and how to run a pilot that gives a defensible answer.

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Vendor _____ Pilot project _____ Evaluated by _____

1. RUN THE PILOT ON DRAWINGS YOU ALREADY KNOW

- ☐ Use a closed project
- ☐ Use the real set, not a sample
- ☐ Write down what you expect before you look
- ☐ Have the output reviewed by someone who knows the project

2. KNOW WHERE YOUR DRAWINGS GO

- ☐ Where files are stored, and for how long
- ☐ Whether your drawings are used for training
- ☐ Who can see your content
- ☐ Which third parties process it

3. BE CLEAR ABOUT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

- ☐ The seal stays with the engineer
- ☐ Read the terms and the AI disclaimer
- ☐ Check who made each decision

4. JUDGE WHETHER THE FINDINGS ARE USABLE

- ☐ Every finding names a sheet and a location
- ☐ Findings cite their basis
- ☐ Severity is ranked
- ☐ Each finding can be accepted or rejected with a reason

5. MEASURE ACCURACY HONESTLY

- ☐ Count three things against your answer key
- ☐ Time the triage
- ☐ Run the same set twice
- ☐ Check by discipline

6. CHECK IT FITS HOW YOUR FIRM WORKS

- ☐ Size limits match your sets
- ☐ Turnaround suits your schedule
- ☐ Disciplines covered match your work
- ☐ Pricing matches your volume

7. ASK THE SECURITY QUESTIONS

- ☐ Encryption in transit and at rest
- ☐ Account security
- ☐ Independent audits

8. MAKE THE DECISION ON THE NUMBERS

- ☐ Compare hours, not impressions
- ☐ Weigh the misses
- ☐ Decide how it will be used

PILOT SCORE

Known errors caught (of total): _____

False positives dismissed: _____

Reviewer hours with the tool, including triage: _____

Reviewer hours by hand for the same set: _____

A vendor-neutral checklist. Score every tool against the same closed project. Engineering judgment and the seal stay with you.

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