

Quality Testing Automation Checklist

How automated and rapid is your testing process?

1 Sample Collection & Testing

- ☐ Samples are collected manually during production shifts
- ☐ Samples are sent to an in-house or third-party lab
- ☐ Results take hours (or days) to receive
- ☐ Samples are tested in real time, on-site
- ☐ No operator required—analysis runs automatically on the line
- ☐ System prompts operators when adjustments are needed

2 Decision-Making & Process Adjustments

- ☐ Operators make manual decisions based on visual cues or experience
- ☐ Adjustments are delayed because test results aren't immediate
- ☐ Operators are frequently waiting on lab data before moving forward
- ☐ Automated system alerts when parameters (protein, fat, moisture, etc.) are out of spec
- ☐ System provides clear go/no-go feedback for process changes



3 Hold & Release Management

- ☐ Finished product is frequently placed on hold until lab results come back
- ☐ Decisions on held product take longer than one shift
- ☐ Product remains on hold >2 hours while waiting on results
- ☐ Real-time data is used to release or rework product immediately
- ☐ You can determine within minutes whether to keep, reprocess, or discard

4 Calibration & Instrument Management

- ☐ You maintain calibrations internally (or not at all)
- ☐ Instruments drift over time and results aren't always trusted
- ☐ Calibrations, maintenance, and performance monitoring are managed for you

5 Reporting, Compliance & Traceability

- ☐ Audit trails are hard to track or incomplete
- ☐ Data isn't 1:1 linked to batches, lots, or shift production
- ☐ Automated data records every sample with user, lot, and timestamp
- ☐ You can export test results instantly for audits or customer requests



6 Team Burden & Resource Use

- ☐ Staff spend valuable time preparing samples, shipping, or following up with labs
- ☐ Quality teams are stretched thin managing instrumentation and methods
- ☐ Lab staff is overwhelmed by repetitive tests that are often within spec
- ☐ Plant operators receive clear, real-time answers—without calling QA
- ☐ Lab and QA teams now focus on improvements and root-cause analysis

Scoring Guide (Optional Use for Quiz or Follow-Up)

0–5 checked (automation-heavy):

Your process is optimized—where could you scale or expand?

6–10 checked:

You're halfway there; automation could eliminate delays and guesswork

11–15 checked:

You're relying heavily on manual work or delayed testing—you're a perfect fit for managed NIR

16+ checked:

Your system is reactive, costly, and stressful—time to modernize