

Social and Labor Convergence Program (SLCP)

Technical Bulletin Update on Automated Data Quality Checks -Blocking Checks-

1 June 2026

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Reminder - blocking checks come into effect from 2 June 2026

Automated Data Quality Checks run on every assessment report when a Verifier submits the assessment to the facility. These checks act as a “gatekeeper” to identify inconsistencies, errors, or missing data before a report is finalized.

Between 1 April and 1 June, blocking check and advisory check notifications were implemented through a soft launch. [See previous technical bulletin here for more information](#). From June 2, 2026, onwards, Verifier Bodies are expected to:

- Ensure that Verifiers review and address all blocking and advisory notifications.
- Ensure that all blocking check failures are resolved, as these will prevent reports from proceeding from Verification Being Edited (VRE) to **Verification Completed (VRC)** until **all issues are resolved**.

If no quality issues are identified, the report is successfully submitted to Verification Completed (VRC) status and the facility can access the report for review.

If the mistakes identified by the automated checks are not corrected, SLCP may issue Corrective Action Requests (CARs) for Key Quality Issue No.10 (*Mistakes identified through VRQ checks [automated quality check on each report] not fixed*), regardless of whether they are Blocking or Advisory checks. Repeat failure of automated checks is also an indication of poor quality management systems, which can result in a Management Systems CAR. It's important to note that as a result, **failure to correct the blocking and advisory checks may impact your VB quality scores**.

Our learnings from the soft launch - What changes did we make?

Update of email notifications

- We received feedback that Verifiers prefer to see the question number than the question key
 - In response, we updated the notifications to the VB to display the question number (that corresponds with the report and depends on the version of the CAF used), rather than the key number (the unique question identifier of the CAF Tool)
 - This change should make it easier for Verifiers to instantly see where mistakes are in the report
- VBs told us they need to understand the explanation of the check better
 - Previously, the explanation of the failed check was only included in the notification sent to Verifiers. Now, we are including the explanation in the notification which is sent to the VB Managers as well.

Changes to wording for better clarification

- Amendment of check 4: check_blank_responses_accurate



- We updated the explanation of this check to better articulate that if a field is blank on a report, Verifiers must not overwrite the automated system selection (see appendix)

Top 3 failed checks

In the last two months, as we ran the soft launch of the new blocking checks, some mistakes have repeatedly appeared in the failure notifications, giving us a clear indication of what Verifiers need to double check on reports before submitting.

We recommend studying these, as well as the related Protocol requirements, carefully.

1) Legal reference and legal flag

In case of a legal non-compliance, the Verifier is required to fill in the legal reference and to provide the legal flag (non-compliance field marked with "X"). This check ensures that always both is provided, one should not go without the other.

We are aware that there is currently a bug in the Worldly platform which does not clear the text in the legal reference field automatically once the non-compliance "X" is removed, the legal reference field however disappears for the Verifier (accordingly, the Verifier might not be aware of the text is still present).

Most tickets regarding VRQ checks refer to this check, and the Verifier does not understand what needs to be done or what the issue is.

We informed about this issue and the workaround to follow in the General VB Calibration of March 2026: in case the legal non-compliance needs to be removed, the Verifier is required to clear the text in the legal reference field first and only then remove the non-compliance X.

2) Accurate selection provided with a corrected response

In case the Verifier determines that the Facility Response is "accurate" and uses the respective Assessor / Verifier Selection, the Verifier must not provide a Corrected Response. The Facility Response is automatically transferred to the Final Verified Response field.

3) Empty Facility Response can only have certain Assessor / Verifier Selections

There are different scenarios where the Facility Response is "empty", meaning the facility did not answer the respective question. In those cases, the Assessor / Verifier Selection is set automatically by the system and must not be overwritten by the Verifier.

The automatic selections are either "Facility did not reply during SA/JA", "Not visible to facility during SA/JA" or "No longer applicable due to verification".



Appendix:

List of automated data quality checks

The table below shows all current automated data quality checks. The information in this table will be reviewed and updated once new checks are introduced.

#	Error Type	Explanation	Type
1	assessment_questions_have_not_been_validated	If a question was answered by the facility in the self-assessment, the Verifier must respond with an Assessor / Verifier Selection.	Blocking
2	check_accurate_and_corrected_response	The following data points have been marked "Accurate", but they also have a verification input in the Assessor / Verifier Response field. Accurate facility entries should not need a separate Assessor / Verifier Response.	Blocking
3	check_age_of_youngest_worker	If the response in RH-CHI-2 (What is the age of the youngest worker?) is 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 or 17, then FP-WOR-25 (How many workers under the age of 18) must be greater than 0.	Blocking
4	check_blank_responses_accuracy	If the self-assessment response is empty in the highlighted keys (the facility did not answer the question), the Assessor / Verifier Selection can only be "Facility did not reply during SA/JA", "Not visible to facility during SA/JA" or "No longer applicable due to verification" - all are automated system selections. Verifiers should not override the system selection.	Blocking
5	check_legal_flag_has_legal_reference	If the field "Non-Compliance" is marked with an "X", then there must be an entry in the Legal Reference field, and vice versa. Special note: Currently, the Legal Reference field on Worldly is not automatically cleared, when the Non-Compliance field is unchecked. Verifiers need to clear the Legal Reference field manually <u>prior</u> to unchecking the Non-Compliance field.	Blocking
6	check_length_of_response	The length of the text in the Assessor / Verifier Explanation field should be under 6,000 characters. You are exceeding the maximum number of characters, please shorten your explanation.	Blocking
7	check_self_assessment_response_and_corrected_response	The following data points have the same entry in the Facility Response field and the Assessor / Verifier Response field. The Assessor / Verifier Response entered by the Verifier must be different from the Facility Response.	Blocking
8	check_updated_during_verification_has_verification_data	Questions with the Assessor / Verifier Selection "Updated during Verification" must also have an entry in the Assessor / Verifier Explanation field explaining why the data was updated.	Blocking

9	check_verification_date	The Verification End Date (VD-VERI-3) should be the same as or older than the Verification Start Date (VD-VERI-2).	Blocking
10	conditional_statements_check_fp_bi_18	If a joint-assessment was conducted (FP-BAS-20), then the details of the joint-assessment (FP-BAS-21, FP-BAS-22 and FP-BAS-21) need to be completed.	Blocking
11	date_questions	Questions requiring a date entry (FP-BAS-26, FP-BUI-23, VD-VERI-2, VD-VERI-3) must not be empty and dates must be entered in ISO format.	Blocking
12	check_number_output_keys	Numeric-type questions must have the appropriate answer format (numeric data types: numeric, numeric-percentage, numeric-latitude, numeric-longitude, numeric-whole).	Blocking