

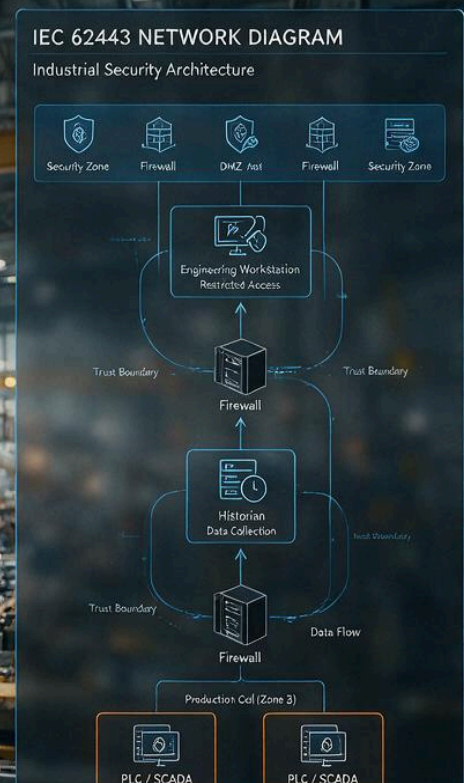
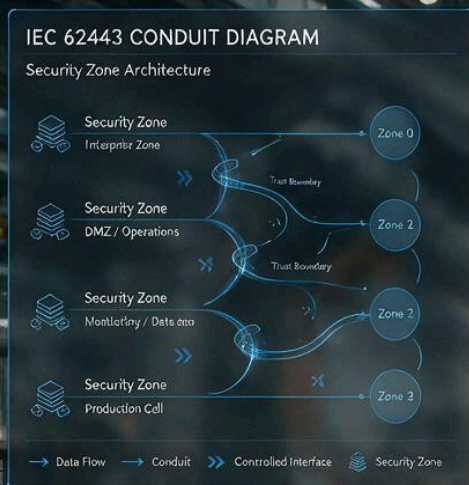


IEC 62443 Architecture Quick Check

Zones, conduits & required data flows

10 practical questions for OT architecture

Version 1.0



How do you use this check?

Place your current OT architecture or network diagram in front of you.

Answer each question with:

- Yes = 2 points
- Partly = 1 point
- No = 0 points

The 10 Practical Questions

Question	Answer options	Score
1. Is the System under Consideration clearly defined? Check: Do we know exactly what is inside and outside the scope?	Yes = 2 pt Partly = 1 pt No = 0 pt	
2. Can we explain why systems are grouped in the same zone? Check: Is the grouping based on function, risk and protection needs rather than history or VLAN structure?	Yes = 2 pt Partly = 1 pt No = 0 pt	
3. Have IT and OT been deliberately separated? Check: Do we know which communication between them is actually required and why?	Yes = 2 pt Partly = 1 pt No = 0 pt	
4. Are safety-related functions deliberately separated? Check: Are required connections to other zones understood and limited?	Yes = 2 pt Partly = 1 pt No = 0 pt	
5. Have the required data flows between zones been identified? Check: Do we know source, destination, direction, purpose and operational need for each important flow?	Yes = 2 pt Partly = 1 pt No = 0 pt	
6. Can we explain why every important data flow is necessary? Check: Can we describe the operational purpose, not just the firewall or network rule?	Yes = 2 pt Partly = 1 pt No = 0 pt	
7. Do we know the required level of protection for each relevant zone and conduit? Check: Is the target protection level derived from risk rather than applied equally everywhere?	Yes = 2 pt Partly = 1 pt No = 0 pt	

Question	Answer options	Score
8. Is external and supplier access visible and controlled? <i>Check: Do we know what suppliers can reach, when access is allowed and how it can be revoked?</i>	Yes = 2 pt Partly = 1 pt No = 0 pt	
9. Do we know what happens if an important connection becomes unavailable? <i>Check: Can we isolate a connection without creating an unexpected operational or safety problem?</i>	Yes = 2 pt Partly = 1 pt No = 0 pt	
10. Can every existing communication flow be justified? <i>Check: Have legacy connections and temporary exceptions been reviewed and linked to a current operational need?</i>	Yes = 2 pt Partly = 1 pt No = 0 pt	

Your Result

- 17–20 points (Well-founded architecture):** Your architecture shows a strong risk-based foundation. Zones, required data flows, external access and protection needs can largely be explained from operational requirements and risk.
Next step: validate that the architecture is current, documented and supported by evidence. Review changes, supplier access and target security levels periodically.
- 11–16 points (Architecture needs further justification):** The basic structure is present, but some design decisions are not yet fully understood, documented or linked to risk.
Next step: start with every question answered Partly or No. Identify the missing risk rationale, required data flow, owner or security requirement.
- 0–10 points (Architecture review recommended):** Important architecture decisions cannot yet be sufficiently explained from risk and operational need.
Next step: go back to the foundation. Define the System under Consideration, review the zone model, identify required data flows and external access, and determine the required protection before adding more technical controls.

Regardless of the total score, a No on any of the following deserves priority attention:

- System under Consideration is unclear
- required data flows are unknown
- SL-T / required protection is not risk-based
- external or supplier access is unclear
- operational impact of losing a connection is unknown

Disclaimer: This Architecture Quick Check is a practical screening tool and does not demonstrate IEC 62443 compliance or replace a formal assessment or audit.

Questions about your result? Visit? **Feel free to get in touch:** <https://cyber-busters.com/contact>