



Quant Trial Readiness Checklist

How to make your dataset ready for evaluation and purchase by systematic investors

What Systematic Buyers Want

1. **Minimal Engineering and Data Prep** – so testing can start in hours, not weeks
2. **Quick Test Readiness** – so early wins build the business case for deeper research and investment
3. **Point-in-Time History** – so results are defensible with no confusion about look-ahead or backfill
4. **Consistent Delivery** – so data can be reliably integrated into investors' trading workflows
5. **Diligence Readiness** – so researchers and their compliance teams can properly understand the data

Minimum Viable Package for Trials

- Data aggregated at entity level
- Entities mapped to security identifiers
- Data dictionary
- History with credible availability timestamps
- Meaningful numerical indicators
- Stable delivery

Trial Readiness Checklist & Gap Assessment

1. Entity Mapping

- Entity coverage universe defined and point-in-time
- Entities are mapped to assets with point-in-time standard IDs (ticker, FIGI, ISIN, etc)

2. Testable Indicators

- Economically meaningful quantitative indicators
- Indicator formulas documented and reproducible

3. Point-in-Time History

- History is presented point-in-time (“as-of”) with availability (tradable) time provided per observation
- Data for delisted entities remains in history
- Backfill window specified
- Revision policy defined

4. Documentation

- Data dictionary with field definitions, edge cases, assumptions, missing-value semantics, other context
- Coverage & fill rates provided
- Schema is versioned with changelog

5. Backtests

- Simple and reproducible backtests of key indicators
- Backtests updated to show recent performance

6. Diligence Readiness

- A sample of real data is available
- Standard DDQ pre-filled (e.g. FISD)
- Lineage and sourcing methods are documented

7. Delivery

- Regular cadence via S3/SFTP in stable format
- Users can be credentialed quickly for live trials

The Replay Test

Can a buyer quickly reconstruct what your dataset looked like on any past date — including schema, entity mappings, and what changed since then — and begin credible backtesting quickly?

If not, buyers can't defend their backtest results, trials stall, and purchase rarely happens.

Want to walk through this checklist? Reach out at trials@vbase.com