

Ramp-up Readiness Checklist

Twelve questions to ask before a new mine or plant is handed over to operations. Most ramp-ups that miss nameplate do so for reasons that are visible months in advance: people, routines, maintenance and data, not the flowsheet.

Rate each statement TICK ONE BOX: YES · PARTLY · NOT YET

PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATION

Yes Partly Not yet

- 01 Every critical operations and maintenance role for the first 12 months is named, hired or has a dated hiring plan. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 02 Operators and maintainers are trained on this equipment before commissioning, not during it. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 03 One person owns the ramp-up curve and reports on it weekly to the CEO or board. ☐ ☐ ☐

MAINTENANCE AND SPARES

Yes Partly Not yet

- 07 Equipment criticality is ranked and preventive maintenance plans are loaded into the CMMS. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 08 Critical spares and long-lead items are on site or on order with confirmed dates. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 09 There is a target for planned-maintenance compliance, and someone measures it from week one. ☐ ☐ ☐

HANDOVER AND ROUTINES

Yes Partly Not yet

- 04 Construction-to-operations handover criteria are written and signed by both sides. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 05 Service agreements exist between construction, operations, procurement, HR and finance. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 06 A daily and weekly meeting cascade with short-interval control is designed before first ore. ☐ ☐ ☐

TARGETS AND DATA

Yes Partly Not yet

- 10 The ramp-up curve is broken down into monthly targets for throughput, recovery and availability. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 11 KPIs cascade from the business plan to shift level, with clear owners for each. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 12 Production and maintenance data reach managers daily without manual spreadsheets. ☐ ☐ ☐

Three or more "not yet", or six or more "partly"? The gap is usually closable in weeks, not months, if it is found before handover. That is what the review below is for.

Ramp-up Readiness Review 2-3 WEEKS

- Operational readiness assessment across people, processes, maintenance, KPI cascade and data.
- Interviews on site or remotely with the owner, operations, maintenance and the project team.
- A written report: the critical gaps, their cost in lost metric tons and cash, and a 100-day plan with owners.
- Optional next step: support as an external VP Operations through the ramp-up, typically 6-18 months.

Track record

New gold mine. Operational readiness plan brought start-up and ramp-up to design capacity forward by 4 months.

Apatite fertilizer unit. Critical path, project office and risk register: commissioning 4.5 months earlier.

Gold mining group. Acting COO for 8 months: 9 mines, 9,000 people. Assets under my direct management reached the first cost quartile.



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Operational improvement since 2005: McKinsey, Partners in Performance, Nordgold (acting COO), EuroChem, EVRAZ; project lead at Ma'aden in 2026

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