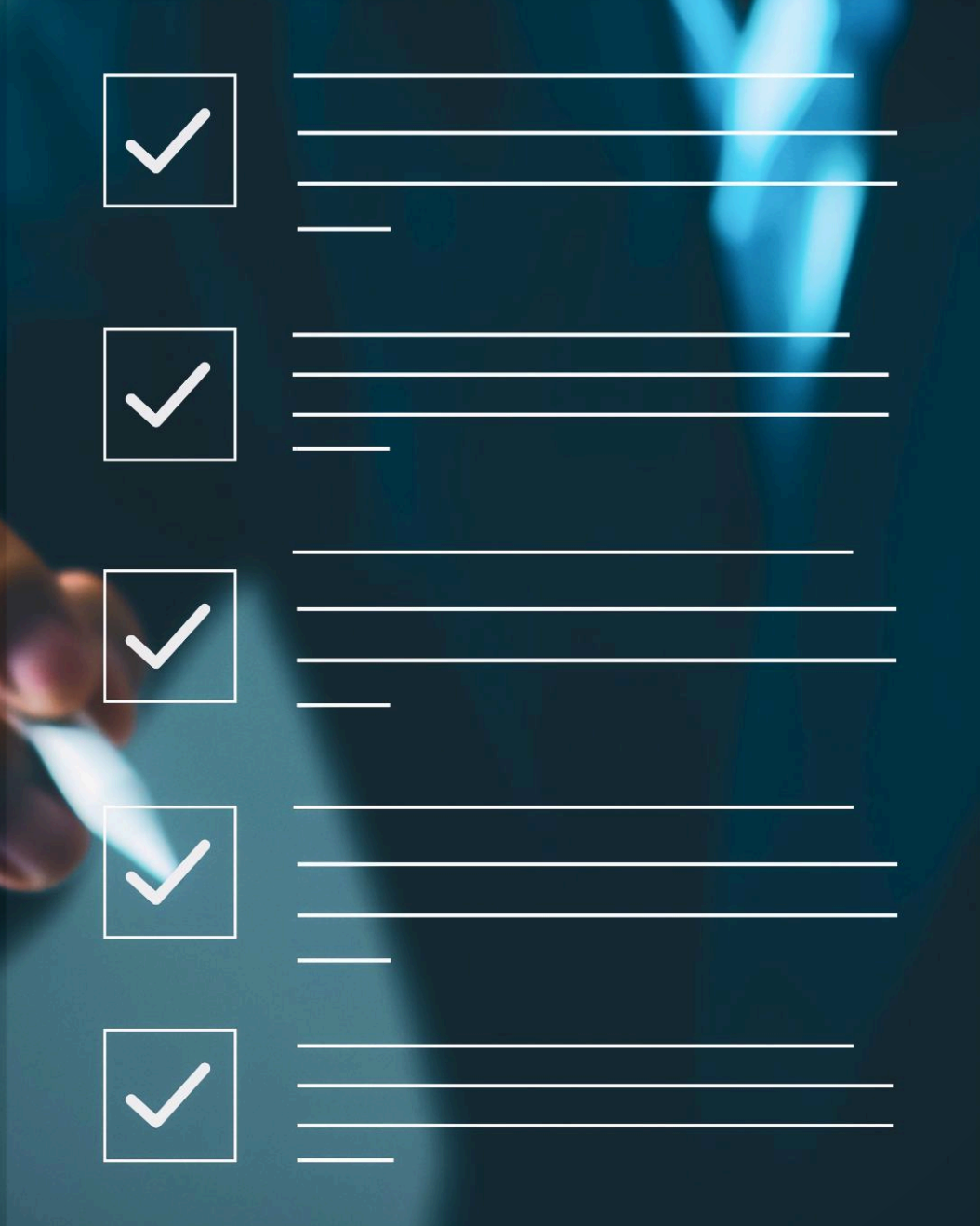


AML VENDOR CHECKLIST

A practical, no-fluff framework to pick a screening partner that won't fail under real risk.



1

VENDOR FIT AND SCOPE

Start with alignment the vendor should match your risk model and not force you into theirs.

- ☐ What AML screening use cases are supported: sanctions, PEP, watchlists, adverse media, KYB, and ongoing re-screening?
- ☐ Is AML screening their core product or a secondary add-on?
- ☐ Proven in your industry, geography, and regulator class?
- ☐ Can they show references in your exact risk tier (size, exposure, regions)?
- ☐ What is proprietary vs third-party (lists, media sources, enrichment)?
- ☐ 12-18 month roadmap: compliance-driven or sales-driven?

2

COVERAGE DEPTH ACROSS SANCTIONS, PEPS & WATCHLISTS

Coverage doesn't necessarily mean how many lists you cover, but about how well those lists reflect reality.



Sanctions Coverage

- ☐ Covers key global regimes (OFAC, UN, EU, UK OFSI, etc.) plus domestic/local lists where you operate?
- ☐ Handles domestic data issues with duplicates, missing DOBs, and inconsistent scripts?
- ☐ Shows source authority and listing timeline per record?
- ☐ Does it unify overlaps into one resolved identity profile?
- ☐ Interprets primary vs secondary sanctions per jurisdiction?



Watchlist/enforcement intelligence

- ☐ Clear definition of watchlists vs sanctions/PEP?
- ☐ Includes enforcement categories of debarments, fugitives, regulatory actions, fraud/scam bulletins, and professional disciplinary lists?
- ☐ Let's you filter decisions by watchlist type?
- ☐ Provides real-time updates on changes to watchlists and sanctions?
- ☐ Integrates with existing compliance systems for seamless monitoring?



PEP coverage

- ☐ Includes municipal/regional/local PEPs, not just top leadership?
- ☐ Handles disputed/contested territories transparently?
- ☐ Maps, Relatives and Close Associates (RCAs) structurally?
- ☐ Continuous monitoring of role changes/exit/re-entry?



Adverse media (if claimed)

- ☐ Coverage of global, local and official/court sources?
- ☐ Handles adverse media across many languages?
- ☐ Severity/relevance scoring, not noisy keyword spam?
- ☐ Real-time updates and alerting system?

3

MATCHING ENGINE QUALITY

The engine is the difference between operational chaos and true risk control to minimise false positives.

Hard requirement: run a live test using your worst-case real names.

- ☐ Matching method: fuzzy, phonetic, and AI/NLP hybrid?
- ☐ Handles multilingual transliterations.
- ☐ Handles Script-to-script matching (Arabic ↔ Latin, Cyrillic ↔ Latin, etc.).
- ☐ Handles honorific/initials/hyphens/surname-first formats.
- ☐ Can distinguish same spelling / different people
- ☐ Can distinguish different spelling / same person
- ☐ Provides match explainability (why this score)?
- ☐ Thresholds tunable by list type (sanctions vs PEP vs watchlist)?
- ☐ Shares benchmark performance on hard/local names?

4

RISK SCORING AND DECISION LOGIC

Your policy should drive decisions, not vendor defaults.

- ☐ Scoring model declared rules / ML/hybrid?
- ☐ Tunable by jurisdiction, list type, customer/KYB type, and product risk?
- ☐ Decision states supported auto-clear, auto-reject, escalate, and monitor?
- ☐ Feedback loop from analyst outcomes with audit trail?
- ☐ Evidence of false-positive reduction after tuning?



QUICK “KILL SWITCH” RED FLAGS

Any of these will compromise compliance outcomes

- ☐ No domestic sanctions depth.
- ☐ PEP lists are limited to top-tier officials only.
- ☐ Watchlists were wrongly merged into sanctions/PEP.
- ☐ Black-box scoring.
- ☐ No live stress test on your own name.