

DCMA 14-Point Schedule Assessment

The 14 checks, how each one is calculated, and their green, yellow and red thresholds



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THE COUNTS Every formula below uses these six counts.

Total ¹ All tasks except summary tasks, milestones and level-of-effort (LOE) tasks		Incomplete Total tasks with no actual finish	Complete Total tasks with an actual finish	Baseline Total tasks with a baseline finish on or before the status date	BEI Baseline Baseline, plus Total tasks missing a baseline start or finish	Relationships Predecessor links on Incomplete tasks
#	CHECK	WHAT IT LOOKS FOR	FORMULA	MEETS	WATCH	TRIPS
LOGIC						
1	Logic	Incomplete tasks missing a predecessor, a successor, or both	Missing logic ÷ Incomplete	≤ 5%		≥ 20%
2	Leads	Relationships with a negative lag	Leads ÷ Relationships	0%		> 0%
3	Lags	Relationships with a positive lag	Lags ÷ Relationships	≤ 5%		≥ 20%
4	Relationship Types	Finish-to-start (FS) relationships	FS links ÷ Relationships	≥ 90%		≤ 80%
CONSTRAINTS, FLOAT & DURATION						
5	Hard Constraints	Incomplete tasks with Must Start On, Must Finish On, Start No Later Than or Finish No Later Than	Hard constraints ÷ Incomplete	≤ 5%		≥ 20%
6	High Float	Incomplete tasks with total float over 44 working days ²	High float ÷ Incomplete	≤ 5%		≥ 20%
7	Negative Float	Incomplete tasks with total float below zero	Negative float ÷ Incomplete	0%		> 0%
8	High Duration	Incomplete tasks with a baseline duration over 44 working days ^{2,3}	High duration ÷ Incomplete	≤ 5%		≥ 20%
STATUS & RESOURCES						
9a	Invalid Forecast Dates	Tasks with a forecast start or finish on or before the status date, but no actual date ⁴	Invalid forecasts ÷ Total	0%		> 0%
9b	Invalid Actual Dates	Tasks with an actual start or finish after the status date	Invalid actuals ÷ Total	0%		> 0%
10	Resources	Incomplete tasks with no baseline hours or cost ⁵	Missing resources ÷ Incomplete	0%		> 0%
11	Missed Tasks	Tasks due by the status date that finished late or haven't finished	Missed tasks ÷ Baseline	≤ 5%		≥ 20%
CRITICAL PATH & PERFORMANCE						
12	Critical Path Test	Add a large delay (600 days) to an incomplete task and check that the completion milestone moves ⁶	Test	Moves		Doesn't move
13	CPLI	Critical Path Length Index: how realistic an on-time finish is ⁷	(CP length + total float) ÷ CP length	≥ 1.00		< 0.95
14	BEI	Baseline Execution Index: tasks completed vs. tasks due ⁸	Complete ÷ BEI Baseline	≥ 1.00		< 0.95

Meets: meets the DCMA goal. Watch: worth a closer look. Trips: crosses DCMA's threshold, which calls for investigation and discussion; it is not a hard fail. No Watch band where the two values meet.

¹ The DCMA guidance predates schedule margin (SM) tasks. The assessment is meant for discrete work, so SM tasks probably should be excluded, like LOE.

² 44 working days is the default; the customer may specify a different value.

³ Excludes planning packages (far-term work not yet detail-planned).

⁴ The guide says before the status date. A forecast on the status date with no actual is also out of date; DCMA later made this correction in its DECM metrics.

⁵ Applies only if the schedule is resource-loaded; some organizations keep hours and costs in their EVM system.

⁶ Despite its name, this is a logical connectivity test: it checks that every incomplete task, not just those on the critical path, connects to the completion milestone. The guide expects the full delay, less the task's float. Float along the path, task calendars and elapsed-day durations change the amount, so any movement shows connected logic. Use a larger delay where float exceeds 600 days.

⁷ CP length = working days from the status date to the completion milestone's forecast finish. Total float = that milestone's float against its baseline finish. Not meaningful if checks 1, 5 and 12 trip.

⁸ Tasks with a future actual finish count as complete, per DCMA, and are also 9b errors.

forproject.com/dcma-14-point-checklist

Sources: DCMA IMS Assessment Guide (Rev 7, 2009) and DCMA 14-Point Assessment contractor training (2009).

Definitions of terms: forproject.com/encyclopedia © 2026 forProject Technology, Inc. All rights reserved.

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