



STRATEGIC QUALITY ENGINEERING · BFSI & ENTERPRISE

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING · v1.0

# The CalyTeQ Quality Confidence System

TM

*Converting software quality activity into board-ready release confidence*

## THE CHALLENGE

Most BFSI organisations measure software quality the wrong way. They count tests, not decisions. They track defects, not risk. They invest in coverage, not confidence.

The result is high-activity quality functions that nevertheless cannot answer the one question that matters to a CTO walking into a board meeting before a major release: are we ready?

CQCS reframes software quality as an executive instrument, not a technical activity. Built for BFSI organisations operating under FCA, PRA, EBA, BCBS, and DORA, it converts the chaos of test results, automation dashboards, and risk registers into a single defensible release-readiness grade your Board can act on.

5

G.R.A.D.E. Confidence  
Pillars

5

Maturity Levels

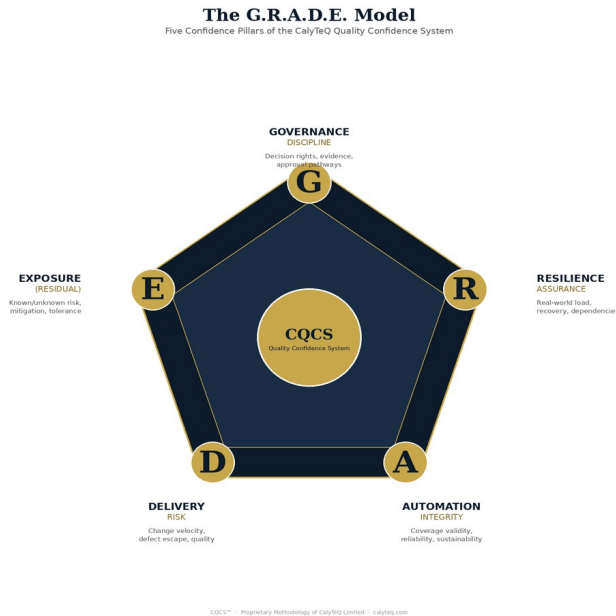
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Confidence Grades

THE FRAMEWORK

# The G.R.A.D.E. Model

Five Confidence Pillars covering the dimensions of release readiness. The smallest complete set across which release confidence can be assessed.



## G Governance Discipline

Decision rights, evidence trails, approval pathways, regulatory alignment. The most common root cause of release failures.

## R Resilience Assurance

Production load validation, failure modes, recovery pathways, dependencies. Closes the gap between what you tested and what you will encounter.

## A Automation Integrity

Coverage validity, flakiness, false confidence detection, sustainability. Automation that runs is not automation that tells the truth.

## D Delivery Risk

Change velocity, defect escape rate, code quality, testing maturity. Velocity and quality are correlated through discipline, not opposed.

## E Exposure (Residual)

Known and unknown risk, mitigation plans, tolerance alignment, Board communication. Where avoidable production crises live.

### OPERATING PRINCIPLE

*CQCS doesn't measure how much testing you do. It measures whether your testing tells you what you need to make a release decision you can defend.*

THE OUTPUT

# The CQCS Confidence Grade

Every CQCS assessment produces a single defensible release-readiness grade, modelled on credit ratings. Your Board understands the scale on sight. Your regulators recognise the rigour. Your engineering teams know exactly what was assessed and why.

## The CQCS Confidence Grade

Release Confidence Grades Mirror Credit Ratings — Built for BFSI Audiences

GRADE	CATEGORY	PROFILE	RELEASE DECISION
<b>AAA</b>	<b>Investment Grade</b>	All pillars 4.5+. Release fully assured.	<b>GO</b>
<b>AA</b>	<b>Investment Grade</b>	All pillars 4.0+. Strong confidence.	<b>GO</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Investment Grade</b>	All pillars 3.5+. Acceptable confidence.	<b>GO</b>
<b>BBB</b>	<b>Conditional</b>	Pillars 3.0+. Conditional release viable.	<b>GO WITH CONDITIONS</b>
<b>BB</b>	<b>Speculative</b>	Multiple pillars at 2-3. Significant risk.	<b>GO WITH CONDITIONS</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>High Risk</b>	Pillars 1-2 dominate. Material exposure.	<b>NO-GO</b>
<b>CCC</b>	<b>Critical</b>	Foundational weaknesses across pillars.	<b>NO-GO</b>

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<p><b>GO</b></p> <p>Grades AAA, AA, A</p> <p>Investment grade. Proceed. Standard monitoring.</p>	<p><b>GO WITH CONDITIONS</b></p> <p>Grades BBB, BB</p> <p>Conditional release. Named mitigations active. Enhanced monitoring.</p>	<p><b>NO-GO</b></p> <p>Grades B, CCC</p> <p>Material weakness. Remediate before reassessment.</p>
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*The grade is a recommendation, not a substitute. The accountable senior leader still owns the decision. CQCS provides the evidence to make and defend it.*

## HOW WE WORK

## Four engagement models, one methodology

CQCS is the methodology underneath every CalyTeQ engagement. Each service applies the framework with a different scope, depth, and cadence.

### Executive Release Assurance (ERA) **FLAGSHIP**

Full G.R.A.D.E. assessment of a specific release. A single Confidence Grade, a recommended release decision, and an evidence pack ready for internal audit and regulatory review.

**Engagement:** 1 to 2 weeks · Fixed scope · Board-ready output

**Coverage:** All five pillars at full depth

### Test Automation Advisory **SPECIALISED**

Focused on the Automation Integrity pillar. Current-state assessment and a roadmap to elevate automation from activity to integrity. Coverage validity, flakiness reduction, false confidence detection.

**Engagement:** 2 to 4 weeks · Phased delivery

**Coverage:** Automation Integrity (primary) · Delivery Risk, Exposure (secondary)

### Performance & Resilience Engineering **SPECIALISED**

Focused on the Resilience Assurance pillar. Particularly relevant under FCA SS1/21 operational resilience obligations and DORA Article 11.

**Engagement:** 2 to 6 weeks · Scoped to system criticality

**Coverage:** Resilience Assurance (primary) · Exposure, Delivery Risk (secondary)

### Delivery Assurance **RETAINER**

CQCS applied continuously, not per-release. A senior CalyTeQ practitioner embedded part-time. Ongoing oversight across all five pillars. Confidence Grade refreshed quarterly.

**Engagement:** Monthly retainer · 6 to 12 month minimum

**Coverage:** All five pillars, ongoing

## WHO WE WORK WITH

## Senior leaders carrying release accountability

▶ **Chief Technology Officers**

Carrying release accountability under SMCR or equivalent regimes

▶ **Heads of Engineering**

Responsible for quality of delivered software at scale

▶ **Heads of Quality / Test**

Seeking to elevate quality from activity to strategic function

▶ **Chief Information Officers**

Managing portfolio-level release risk

▶ **Programme Directors**

Managing major change with quality risk exposure

▶ **Risk and Audit functions**

Assessing software quality as a control discipline

## WHY CQCS

## Built where existing frameworks fall short

- ✓ **BFSI-specific** · Built for regulated financial services and insurance, with explicit regulatory connections (FCA, PRA, EBA, DORA, BCBS) integrated into the framework
- ✓ **Executive-grade** · Designed for CTOs, CIOs, Programme Directors, Boards. Output is a single defensible grade, not a 200-page report
- ✓ **Decision-focused** · Every component supports a release decision. If a measurement doesn't improve a decision, it doesn't belong in the framework
- ✓ **Outcome-oriented** · Measures release confidence, not testing activity. Activity is a means; confidence is the outcome
- ✓ **Senior-led** · Senior assessor on every engagement. No bait-and-switch staffing model

## Let's talk

*If you're carrying release accountability and want a defensible answer to "are we ready?", I'd welcome the conversation.*

**Anthony Adeloje**

Founder & Principal Consultant

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