Top 5 Enterprise Review Blockers for AI

More than half enterprise reviews and investor due diligence uncover the same issues. They slow down review, trigger follow-up questions, and create uncertainty around how AI systems are governed and controlled. By spotting these red flags early, you stay ahead of delays, rework, and credibility gaps.

1. Data Use Is Unclear or Inconsistent

What it is: *How data is used across training, inference, analytics, and logging is not clearly defined or consistent*

Why it hurts: *Unclear data use raises immediate concerns about misuse of customer data or undisclosed retention*

How to spot it: *Teams provide different answers, verbal assurances only, no documented data sue statement*

2. Access Controls Don't Hold Up Under Review

What it is: *Production systems and sensitive data access controls are informal and inconsistently applied*

Why it hurts: *Auditors flag and lose confidence regardless of product strength*

How to spot it: *Broadly granted access, infrequent reviews, unclear approval for accessing who can access privileged info*

3. No Independent Security Testing Signal

What it is: *Poor evidence for independent testing of environment or application*

Why it hurts: *Auditors expect one objective signal for risk identification and remediation*

How to Spot it: *No vulnerability scan, no penetration testing, findings are not tracked to resolution*

4. Data Flows & Vendors are Poorly Understood

What it is: *Data movement between systems, cloud services, and 3rd party vendors are not documented*

Why it hurts: *Unclear data flows introduce hidden risk and trigger delated review cycles*

How to spot it: *Incomplete/Outdated vendor list and there is no simple data flow diagram*

5. Incident Response Ownership is Undefined

What it is: *No process for responding to security or data incidents*

Why it hurts: *Reviewers expect clear, repeatable response when something goes wrong*

How to spot it: *Informal description of incident response, unclear ownership, lack of escalation paths*

Pro Tip: *Run a short internal review before enterprise or investor diligence begins. Collect the evidence reviewers typically request and confirm it reflects how the system operates today*

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Quick Wins

Practical steps you can take right now to reduce review friction and show progress before enterprise or investor diligence:

- **Document and align on how data** is used across training, inference and analytics
- **Restrict and Review** access to production systems and sensitive data
- **Obtain at least one independent** security testing signal and track remediation
- **Create a simple data flow** and vendor inventory and assign clear owners
- **Define Incident Response** ownership and escalation paths

Quick wins like these don't just reduce review delays - they materially improve how your AI system is evaluated under audit and review.

Next Steps

If these review blockers sound familiar, now is the time to act. **Book a 30-minute consult** with SAV Associates today and get a clear plan to eliminate gaps, streamline evidence collection, and walk into your audit with confidence.

About SAV Associates

SAV Associates is a full-service CPA firm and a recognized leader in ISO/SOC reporting, audits, and readiness assessments. With offices in Canada and the U.S., we combine the depth of Big 4 expertise with the agility of a boutique practice.

Our Assurance & Risk Advisory team helps SaaS companies, AI startups, and enterprise clients navigate the complexity of SOC 2, ISO 42001, ISO 27001 and related frameworks with confidence. We don't just deliver reports - we guide clients through readiness, close critical gaps, and build stronger control environments that stand up to scrutiny.

By partnering with SAV, organizations accelerate enterprise sales cycles, strengthen trust with customers and investors, and reduce the risks and costs of failed or delayed audits.

Get in Touch

Sanjay Chadha
Partner

Canada

sanjaychadha@savassociates.ca

647-831-8322

USA

sanjayc@scus.cpa

650-384-9786

www.savassociates.ca

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