

Levels and checkpoints

The levels for *Test environment* are typified as follows:

- **Controlled:** *Test tools needed to execute specific test activities are available and used.*
- **Efficient:** *Test tools are used to accelerate specific test activities.*
- **Optimizing:** *Test tools, and their used, are continuously evaluated and improved.*

Please find the checkpoints below.

Controlled

1. Test environment requirements are documented.
2. Working agreements are made with the parties supplying the test environment. These agreements contain tasks and responsibilities.
3. The test environment is available to the test team during the agreed time.
4. The test manager is timely informed whenever a change to the test environment is planned.

Efficient

1. Acceptance of the test environment takes place using a checklist created in advance.
2. A logical or functional design of the test environment is put together. It addresses applications, systems and their connections, and the use of stubs and drivers (mock-ups).
3. Supplying parties deliver a technical design of the test environment that is formally accepted by the test manager or the test environment specialist.
4. Agreements with supplying parties have a Service Level Agreement nature.

Optimizing

1. The ownership of test environments lies with a distinct department.
2. Usage of test environments is laid down in a standard contract.
3. Services in scope and out of scope with regard to test environments are laid down in a Service Catalogue.

(Source: “TPI Next, Business Driven Test Process Improvement” ISBN 9072194977)

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