Requirements Validation Checklist

It is often useful to examine each requirement against a set of checklist questions. Here is a small subset of those that might be asked:

- Are requirements stated clearly? Can they be misinterpreted?

- Is the source (e.g., a person, a regulation, a document) of the requirement identified? Has the final statement of the requirement been examined by or against the original source?

- Is the requirement bounded in quantitative terms?

- What other requirements relate to this requirement? Are they clearly noted via a cross-reference matrix or other mechanism?

- Does the requirement violate any system domain constraints?

- Is the requirement testable? If so, can we specify tests (sometimes called validation criteria) to exercise the requirement?

- Is the requirement traceable to any system model that has been created?

- Is the requirement traceable to overall system/product objectives?

- Is the specification structured in a way that leads to easy understanding, easy reference, and easy translation into more technical work products?

- Has an index for the specification been created?

- Have requirements associated with performance, behavior, and operational characteristics been clearly stated? What requirements appear to be implicit?