The board meeting ends on time. Seventeen items, all green or yellow, and everyone walks out relieved to have "done the risk thing." Two weeks later a model update in the customer-success agent starts misclassifying tickets, the errors feed three other agents, and churn is climbing before anyone notices. None of the seventeen items mentioned it. The post-mortem ends the way every serious AI failure does: "This risk was not on the register."

The reflex is to add more items and schedule another review. That scales the document, not the protection. A longer list is a snapshot of what you already knew to name, not a map of what breaks you.

The AI Risk Register introduces the RISK framework: Register what matters, Inspect with evidence, Scenario-plan the unlikely, Kill-switch before deployment. Four moves turn a static compliance artifact into a living decision system that changes what your team ships. RISK is an operating heuristic, not a validated instrument: a lens you test against your register.

You will learn to:

• Register what matters: give every material risk one owner, a first evidence date, and an update trigger.

• Inspect with evidence, replacing "we talked about it" with a measured condition and a last-inspected date.

• Scenario-plan the unlikely with cards that trace the second-order path and name the tail condition before it cascades.

• Build tested kill-switches before deployment, so you stop a system on purpose.

• Wire the register into how the team sets risk appetite, escalates, and reports.

The result is a one-page living register with named owners, tested kill-switches, and scenario cards that trace what a static list never sees. It turns vague dread about AI into proportionate capability.

If you run material AI in production and refuse to meet your exposure in the post-mortem, start with the register you have and the effect it never named.

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