SAP Test Data Quality checklist

10 mistakes that silently sabotage SAP testing, and how to address them

Test data is one of the most critical – and most overlooked – elements in SAP project success. When data quality breaks down in non-production environments, test cycles stall, automation fails, and confidence in delivery erodes. This checklist outlines the ten most common issues we see in SAP test environments, from mismatched scope and broken referential integrity to inconsistent scrambling and stale data. Whether you're preparing for UAT, regression, or a cloud migration, use this checklist to assess your current landscape and identify opportunities to improve speed, security, and stability in every test cycle.

The checklist

What to check	Why it matters	How to improve it
1. Full-system copies used by default	Inflates cost, increases risk, delays refresh	Use subset-based provisioning aligned to test scope
2. Scrambling is manual or inconsistent	Creates false security; can break logic	Use automated, rules-based scrambling at extraction
3. Referential integrity is broken	Tests fail due to missing links across modules	Preserve relationships during subsetting
4. Data varies across environments	"No data in DEV, Works in QA, breaks in UAT" issues emerge	Standardise refreshes with consistent provisioning
5. Environments don't match test scope	Testers waste time filtering or chasing gaps	Provision based on test case design, not system size
6. Test data is stale	Testing against outdated logic or org structure	Automate regular, scenario-based data refresh
7. Automation failures are data-driven	Scripts fail due to missing or unstable inputs	Ensure complete, stable data aligned to script logic
8. Lacking refresh audit trail or governance	Risk exposure to work in progress, no traceability or accountability	Use tooling with access control and audit logs
9. Compliance added too late	Scrambling is reactive; non-compliance risk grows	Bake masking into the provisioning process
10. No business input in data validation	Test cases lack real-world context	Involve SMEs to validate data realism and usability

Want expert input?

We've helped hundreds of SAP teams build smarter, leaner, and more secure test environments.
Let's talk about how you can improve yours – without breaking your program timeline.

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