

Modality Task Audit Field Template

Use this worksheet during field observations. It allows design teams to document specific physical barriers before writing code.

Part 1: Physical Reality Check

Observe users as they perform a primary task in actual workspaces. Check all applicable conditions.

State of Hands

- Hands are free for typing.
- User holds a clipboard or a smartphone.
- User holds tools, drives a vehicle, or wears thick gloves.

Visual Focus Requirements

- User focuses entirely on a screen.
- User alternates glances between a screen and physical surroundings.
- User watches live machinery or navigates crowded spaces.

Ambient Noise Level

- Quiet environment (office).
- Moderate noise (busy cafe).
- Loud environment (construction site, loud retail floor).

Part 2: Cognitive Baseline

Rate mental effort required to complete a specific workflow.

Metric	Low	Medium	High
Required Reading Density	Single numbers, binary states	Short summaries, simple instructions	Legal contracts, complex diagnostic reports
Verification Anxiety	Reversible actions, low stakes	Standard business operations	Irreversible actions, safety risks, financial transactions

Part 3: Handoff Map

Chart user journeys across different environments. Document required input and output at each stage.

Stage 1: Initial Action

Location: _____

Input Method: _____

Output Method: _____

Stage 2: Context Transition

Trigger for environment change (example: user returns to a desk):

Stage 3: Completion Action

Location: _____

Input Method: _____

Output Method: _____