

Indicator Audit Checklist

Signal Pilot Education Hub

Indicator Repaint Audit Checklist

From Lesson 4: Your Indicators Are Lying to You (The Repaint Problem)

Use this checklist to audit ANY indicator for repainting before risking real money on it.



Pre-Trade: Audit the Indicator

- [] **Visual Test (Easiest - Do this first)**
- Open live chart with your indicator
- Screenshot or note where signals appear (specific price + time)
- Wait for the bar to close
- Refresh browser and check if signals moved or disappeared
- Repeat 3-5 times to confirm
- [] **Replay Test (Most Accurate)**
- Use TradingView's Bar Replay feature

- Go back 100+ bars
 - Play forward bar-by-bar
 - Mark where signals appear AS THEY APPEAR
 - Finish replay and compare to historical signals
 - If live \neq historical = REPAINTING
 - [] **Alert Test (Real-World)**
 - Set alert on your indicator's signal
 - Track 20+ alerts over 1-2 weeks
 - Record: Alert time + price
 - Compare alert entries to historical signal locations
 - If alert prices \neq signal prices in history = REPAINTING
 - [] **Code Audit (For Coders)**
 - Check for `request.security()` without `lookahead=barmerge.lookahead_off`
 - Check for `security()` without `[1]` offset for HTF data
 - Verify `barstate.isconfirmed` check for signals
 - Ensure no `var` variables changing past values
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Pass Criteria (ALL Must Be Met)

- [] Visual test: Signals stayed in same location after bar close (3/3 tests)
- [] Replay test: Live signals matched historical signals exactly
- [] Alert test: Alert prices matched signal prices in history (20/20 alerts)
- [] No red flags in code (if auditing Pine Script)
- [] Indicator documentation states "non-repainting" or "deterministic"

Decision Matrix

If indicator **PASSES** all tests:

- [] Safe to backtest and forward test
- [] Document: Indicator name, date tested, pass confirmation
- [] Proceed to strategy development

If indicator **FAILS** any test:

- [] DO NOT USE for trading
 - [] DO NOT backtest (results will be fantasy)
 - [] Find alternative non-repainting indicator
 - [] Document: Indicator name, which test failed, date
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Red Flags (Skip Indicator Immediately)

- [] Developer won't share code (closed source + won't prove non-repaint)
 - [] "Perfect" backtest results (3.0R+ expectancy, 4.0+ profit factor = suspicious)
 - [] No mention of repainting in documentation
 - [] Signals appear mid-bar but change by bar close
 - [] "Holy grail" marketing language
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Post-Audit Documentation

Indicator name:

- _____

Tests performed:

- Visual: PASS / FAIL
- Replay: PASS / FAIL
- Alert: PASS / FAIL
- Code: PASS / FAIL (or N/A)

Verdict:

- [] SAFE TO USE (all tests passed)
- [] DO NOT USE (failed one or more tests)

Date tested: __

Notes:

- _____

Remember:

- ☒ 60-90% of indicators repaint (test everything)
- ☒ Perfect backtests = red flag (if too good to be true, it is)
- ☒ Use at least 2 detection methods (visual + alert is easiest)
- ☒ Signal Pilot indicators are deterministic (no future data, no tricks)
- ☒ 2 hours testing saves months of losses

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