IBM ODM Decision Center V9 Migration Certification – Best Practices Overview Document

# 1. Purpose

This document outlines the best practices for certifying the IBM ODM Decision Center (DC) migration from version 8.11 to 9.0. It ensures comprehensive validation of functional behavior, database integrity, REST API endpoints, and deployment pipelines.

# 2. Scope

The practices apply to:  
- V9-TEST-DC environment readiness certification  
- Migration validation from V8.11 to V9  
- Future promotion to RES and PROD environments

# 3. Best Practices

# 3.1 Certification Planning & Coordination

- Define the scope, timeline, and ownership of each stage.  
- Align infrastructure, QA, development, and business rules teams.  
- Maintain a centralized repository for documentation and test assets.

# 3.2 Test Execution Strategy

- Use consistent test suites and JSONs across V8.11 and V9.  
- Include rule validation, response structure, and response time benchmarks.  
- Automate execution and store run metadata (start time, end time, status).  
- Test across DC UI, Decision Server Runtime, and REST APIs.

# 3.3 Decision Center Database Validation

- Validate that all projects, branches, versions, and user permissions migrated correctly.  
- Perform data integrity checks across rule artifacts (rulesets, decision tables, BAL rules).  
- Compare row counts and structure (via SQL or export tools) before and after migration.  
- Confirm rule synchronization between DC and Decision Server Runtime.

# 3.4 REST API Endpoint Validation

- Test key Decision Center V9 REST APIs including:  
 - /decisioncenter-api/v1/projects  
 - /decisioncenter-api/v1/branches  
 - /decisioncenter-api/v1/rulesets  
 - /decisioncenter-api/v1/deploy  
- Validate access controls and token-based authentication.  
- Compare response payloads, status codes, and execution times with V8.11.

# 3.5 CI/CD Pipeline Deployment

- Validate deployment pipelines for Decision Center artifacts:  
 - Ensure automatic export/import of rulesets from source control.  
 - Include static checks (e.g., rule format validation) before deployment.  
 - Automate deployment to TEST-DC and RES environments.  
- Include rollback strategy and notifications in case of failures.

# 3.6 Comparative Reporting (V8.11 vs V9)

- Capture and report differences in:  
 - Rule execution results  
 - Rule firing sequences  
 - REST API responses and metrics  
- Include side-by-side snapshots and summary tables in the report.

# 3.7 Issue Management

- Log all issues in a centralized tracker with severity, owner, and ETA.  
- Categorize issues: Migration, UI, API, DB, Deployment, or Functional.  
- Review logs and system traces for deeper diagnostics.  
- Highlight unresolved issues clearly in the final certification summary.

# 3.8 Documentation & Deliverables

Maintain the following in standardized format:  
- Best Practices Overview Document  
- Decision Compare Report  
- Performance Summary for TEST-DC  
- Issue Summary & Fixes  
- Certification Notification Template

# 3.9 Communication & Sign-off

- Provide regular updates to key stakeholders.  
- Finalize certification sign-off after stakeholder review of all deliverables.  
- Ensure documentation of limitations or follow-up action items.

# 4. Post-Certification Recommendations

- Monitor environment for 2–3 weeks post-certification for performance or behavior changes.  
- Conduct a retrospective to improve the certification process.  
- Archive all artifacts, logs, and comparison results for audit/reference.