BLINKSIGNS

Wayfinding Field Walkthrough & Route Testing Guide

Use before fabrication and again during commissioning. Record observable navigation behavior without inventing performance benchmarks.

1. Before the Walkthrough (Preparation)

Preparation Area	Required Record & Scope
Journey task	Origin, destination, user group, intended arrival/return mode.
Participant instructions	What the test participant is told and whether assistance is permitted.
Physical conditions	Building access, closures, lighting, ongoing work, current map/sign revision.
Permissions and privacy	Facility authorization, consent as appropriate; avoid unnecessary personal data.
Relevant technical scope	Confirm what accessibility and safety inspections are handled by qualified reviewers.

2. Observe the Journey, Not Just the Signs

Checkpoint	Record Evidence & Observed Behavior
Approach	What is visible before a route choice? Is the intended destination name recognizable?
Decision point	Correct turn, wrong turn, hesitation, or request for assistance?
Confirmation	Does the route confirm continued progress after a long segment?
Arrival	Correct destination reached, or only approximate building/floor?
Return	Can the participant return to the intended parking or pickup point?

3. Suggested One-Journey Field Log

Journey ID / tester profile	_____
Date and test conditions	_____
Start / destination / assistance	_____
Journey Result	☐ Independent ☐ Assisted ☐ Incomplete ☐ Invalid
Wrong turns & decision points	_____
Accessible route reference	_____
Corrective action ID and owner	_____

Interpreting the Observations: A small navigation walkthrough identifies potential issues; it does not establish universal success percentages or regulatory compliance. Where before-and-after comparisons are made, document changes in participants, access conditions and route length. If a visitor fails at DP-017, check the original journey, naming register, route visibility and candidate S-042 before assuming more signs are necessary.

Professional References: • SEGD framework for evaluating wayfinding systems: https://segd.org/resources/framework-evaluating-wayfinding-systems/
• U.S. Access Board ADA Signage Guidelines: https://www.access-board.gov/ada/guides/chapter-7-signs/