

Appendix A

The DECODE Logic at a Glance

The DECODE Logic at a Glance

Understanding before commitment

UNDERSTANDING (no commitment)

D Define the Improvement Intent

Why is change worth considering at all?

E Explore the System as It Exists

Describe the system before explaining it.

C Clarify Embedded Decisions

Surface inherited choices, constraints, and historical accidents.

O Outline Change Boundaries

Where does change become unsafe or invalid?

This is where most organizations commit by accident.

COMMITMENT (explicit)

D Decide the Improvement Path

Improve within existing boundaries.

Redesign beyond them.

Preserve and do not change.

MEMORY (protection)

E Establish Closure

Preserve reasoning over time through assumptions, trade-offs, and revisit triggers.

DECODE is linear. It is not a cycle.

It stops only after a decision has been made and closure has been established. Execution begins afterward.

THE DECODE LOGIC AT A GLANCE

A practical reference for the full decision sequence

