

VMware HCX to VCF Migration Checklist

Everything to confirm before, during and after an HCX-based migration into VMware Cloud Foundation — condensed from our step-by-step walkthrough from site pairing to cutover. Print it, work through it, and don't start a wave with an unticked box.

Pre-Flight Checklist

Versions and compatibility

- ☐ Source vSphere and ESXi builds recorded and checked against the HCX interoperability matrix for the target VCF release
- ☐ HCX Connector and HCX Cloud Manager builds confirmed compatible with each other
- ☐ Target VCF version and its NSX and vCenter baselines confirmed
- ☐ Minimum destination vSphere build for RAV to VMFS6 datastores verified

Workload eligibility

- ☐ Full virtual machine inventory exported with hardware version, disk configuration and device attachments
- ☐ Machines below hardware version 9 identified and a remediation window agreed
- ☐ Fault Tolerance, multi-writer disks and shared SCSI bus configurations flagged and assigned an alternative migration type
- ☐ Attached ISOs and orphaned device mounts cleared
- ☐ Application dependency map produced, so groups move together rather than in halves

Network readiness

- ☐ Firewall change raised covering every HCX port requirement (HTTPS 443, UDP 4500, UDP 500 and the appliance management ports)
- ☐ Forward and reverse DNS confirmed working from the appliances themselves at both sites
- ☐ MTU validated end to end across the real uplink path, not read from a configuration file
- ☐ Sustained throughput baselined with HCX Transport Analytics rather than assumed from the circuit rating
- ☐ A minimum of 100 Mbps per concurrent vMotion and 150 Mbps for RAV confirmed as available headroom
- ☐ Distributed switch versions on the source checked against Network Extension requirements

Licensing and access

- ☐ HCX Enterprise entitlement confirmed at both ends if RAV is in the plan
- ☐ Dedicated service accounts created with the correct vCenter and NSX roles

- ☐ Outbound access to the activation endpoint confirmed, including proxy configuration where relevant

Destination readiness

- ☐ Target workload domain built, licensed and validated before migration traffic starts
- ☐ Datastore capacity and IOPS headroom confirmed for the incoming profile
- ☐ Storage policies defined and mapped to source protection levels
- ☐ Destination portgroup and segment mappings documented per mobility group
- ☐ Backup and monitoring coverage extended to the destination before the first wave, not after it

Wave Completion Validation

- ☐ Guest operating system is up, reachable on the expected address, and resolving DNS correctly.
- ☐ VMware Tools is running and reporting the correct IP address to vCenter.
- ☐ Storage policy on the destination is the intended one, particularly on vSAN backed workload domains where the default policy may not match the source protection level.
- ☐ Application owner has run their own smoke test and confirmed it in writing. Infrastructure green is not the same as application green.
- ☐ Backup job has picked up the workload at its new location and completed at least one successful run.
- ☐ Monitoring and alerting are pointed at the new location, with the old object removed rather than left generating alerts nobody reads.

Post-Migration Cleanup

- ☐ Confirm every workload on an extended segment has moved and been validated by its owner.
- ☐ Un-extend the Network Extension segments and normalise routing in NSX on the VCF side.
- ☐ Remove the mobility groups and migration history you no longer need for audit purposes.
- ☐ Delete the Service Mesh, which removes the IX, NE and WO appliances at both sites.
- ☐ Remove the compute and network profiles, then release the IP addresses back to the pool.
- ☐ Break the site pairing.
- ☐ Decommission the HCX Connector on the legacy side and reclaim the capacity.
- ☐ Document what moved, when, and with which migration type, then hand it to whoever runs the platform.

Need this run by people who do it every week?

Consult Circle designs and delivers HCX-based VCF migrations end to end — audit, Service Mesh design, wave runbooks and cutover. Book a scoping call at consultcircle.com/contact/

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