Buy a Stock Checklist (adapted from Acid Test 1-3, Kathleen Richards)

Conclusion:

Acid Test	Considerations	Does it pass the test?
#1 Is the company	☐ Are the Sales, EPS and PTP lines up straight and parallel?	□ Yes ☺
growing?	☐ Have sales been increasing over the last 5 years?	☐ No ⊗ Let it go
	☐ Have earnings been increasing over the last 5 years ?	
	☐ Are the recent 4 quarters of sales and earnings showing an increase?	
#2 Is the company doing	☐ Are the sales consistent with what you expect given the size of the company?	□ Yes ☺
better than last year?	Large >10B 5%-7%	☐ No ⊗ Let it go
	Medium 1B-10B 7%-12%	
	Small <1B 12% or more	
	\Box Compare the sales from the recent quarter to a year ago same quarter. Is the change 5% or	
	better?	
	\Box Compare the sales from the recent quarter to a year ago same quarter. Is the change 5% or	
	better?	
#3 Keeping an eye on	☐ Pre-tax profit on sales — Look at last 5 years. Is it growing?	☐ Yes ☺
management. Are they	Go to Analyze 'Growth and Quality' tab	☐ No ☺ Let it go
making money for	Click on 'Compare Peers' – delete peers from boxes at top	
shareholders? Are they	Click on tab 4- %PTP on sales, then choose 'Peer Group Average'	
more profitable than the	How is the company doing compared to their peers?	
competition?	Next click on 'Quarterly Data'	
	Choose 'Trailing 4 quarters', 'Zero Growth' and 'Last 5 years'	
	Delete 'Sales' and 'EPS'	
	Add '%Pre-tax profits' to graph: 1 dot = 1 quarter	
	Is graph going up?	
	☐ Return on Equity – How well is the company using profits to make more profits?	☐ Yes ☺
	Look at last 5 years , the number should be 15% or greater	☐ No ⊗ Let it go
	☐ Debt to Capital — is the company managing debt? What is the debt from?	☐ Yes ☺
	Debt should not be more than 33%	☐ No ☺ Let it go