



DAGS v1.0 Normative Standard

Scope and Boundaries

1. Purpose

This document defines the scope, applicability, and boundaries of the Deployment AI Governance Standard (DAGS) v1.0.

Its purpose is to:

- Establish the precise domain of governance addressed by DAGS
- Prevent expansion beyond intended deployment-layer controls
- Eliminate ambiguity regarding applicability and exclusions
- Provide a defensible boundary for assessment, interpretation, and claims of alignment

This document is normative.

2. In-Scope Systems

DAGS applies to AI systems at the deployment layer.

For the purposes of this standard, an in-scope system is any AI-enabled system that:

- Is deployed into a live operational environment
- Produces, influences, or mediates outcomes affecting users, customers, employees, or third parties



- Operates under the control or responsibility of an organization, regardless of whether the model is internally developed or externally sourced

Deployment-layer scope includes, but is not limited to:

- User-facing AI systems and agents
- Embedded AI within products or services
- AI systems integrated into business workflows or decision processes
- Post-sale model updates, configuration changes, or behavioral modifications

3. Explicit Exclusions

DAGS **does not** govern:

- Model training methodologies
- Model architecture, weights, or internal optimization techniques
- Research-only or non-deployed experimental systems
- Pre-deployment development practices except where they directly affect deployed behavior
- Organizational AI strategy, enterprise-wide ethics programs, or aspirational principles as standalone governance frameworks

These exclusions are intentional and normative.

DAGS does not directly govern organizational AI strategy or enterprise ethics programs. However, DAGS requires that each deployed AI system be explicitly bounded within the organizational accountability and policy context in which it operates. Organizational strategy and ethics commitments define the accountability perimeter; DAGS governs the operational instantiation of those commitments at the deployment layer.

DAGS governs what exists and operates, not how models are invented or researched.

4. Boundary Between Deployment and Development

DAGS draws a strict boundary between:

- **Development-layer activities** (design, training, experimentation), and
- **Deployment-layer controls** (governance, accountability, oversight, change authority)

Only deployment-layer controls are within scope.

Where development activities create artifacts that persist into deployment (e.g., documentation, approvals, constraints), those artifacts may serve as evidence, but the development activity itself remains out of scope.

NOTE: Organizational AI strategy and ethics programs may generate commitments, constraints, or policy declarations that persist into deployment. Where such commitments affect system behavior or oversight obligations, they become relevant at the deployment layer and must be reflected in system-level governance artifacts.

5. Organizational Scope

DAGS applies at the system level, not the enterprise level. While DAGS evaluates alignment at the system level, each system must declare its organizational context, accountable authority, and applicable policy constraints. Enterprise-wide strategy and ethics programs do not substitute for system-specific governance, but they inform the accountability perimeter within which the system operates.

Alignment is evaluated per:

- Deployed AI system



- Defined system boundary
- Declared operational context

Enterprise-wide policies may support alignment but do not substitute for system-specific governance.

6. Jurisdictional Neutrality

DAGS is jurisdiction-agnostic.

It is designed to:

- Be legible across regulatory regimes
- Support mapping to jurisdiction-specific requirements
- Avoid embedding jurisdictional obligations directly into the standard

Jurisdictional compliance is external to DAGS and may not be implied by alignment.

7. Prohibited Scope Expansion

The following are explicitly prohibited:

- Treating DAGS as a general AI ethics framework
- Extending DAGS to certify model quality, safety, or performance
- Using DAGS to assess development maturity or organizational culture
- Representing DAGS alignment as regulatory approval

Any such expansion constitutes misrepresentation.

8. Authority of This Definition

This scope definition is authoritative.

If a system, activity, or claim falls outside the boundaries defined here, it is not governed by DAGS, regardless of superficial similarity.

Where disputes arise, this document governs determination of applicability.

9. Status

This Scope and Boundaries definition is normative.

It is binding for DAGS v1.0 and all derivative artifacts unless explicitly superseded.

10. License & Authority

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