

DAGS

DEPLOYMENT AI GOVERNANCE STANDARD

DAGS v1.0 Normative Standard

Appendix A — Definitions

1. Purpose

This appendix defines normative terms and definitions used throughout the Deployment AI Governance Standard (DAGS) v1.0.

Its purpose is to:

- Establish precise meaning for key terms
- Prevent ambiguity or interpretive drift
- Ensure consistent application of requirements across domains and artifacts

This appendix is normative.

2. Authority of Definitions

The definitions in this appendix are authoritative for DAGS v1.0.

Where a term is defined herein, that definition governs interpretation across all DAGS documents, regardless of external usage or alternative definitions in other frameworks.

If a term is not defined here, it shall be interpreted according to its ordinary meaning in the context of deployment-layer governance.

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3. Defined Terms

AI System

A deployed combination of models, software, services, configurations, interfaces, and operational processes that together produce AI-mediated outcomes in an operational environment.

Applicability

The condition under which DAGS requirements apply to a specific AI system based on scope, deployment status, and operational use.

Auditability

The property by which governance controls, decisions, changes, and evidence can be independently examined and verified.

Authority

The formally assigned power to approve, modify, constrain, or stop aspects of a deployed AI system's behavior or operation.

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Change (Material)

Any modification to a deployed AI system that meets the definition of “Materially Affecting Behavior” under this appendix, including changes to components, configurations, integrations, dependencies, policies, or oversight mechanisms.

Control

A required governance obligation defined by a DAGS normative requirement and identified by a stable control identifier.

Control Identifier

A unique, stable reference assigned to a DAGS control, formatted according to the Control ID Naming Convention.

Deployment Layer

The operational environment in which an AI system is running and producing outcomes, excluding research, development, or training activities unless they directly affect deployed behavior.

Evidence

Documented artifacts, records, or attestations demonstrating the existence and operation of a required governance control for a deployed AI system.

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Governance

The structures, authorities, controls, and processes by which a deployed AI system is directed, constrained, and held accountable.

Material Component

Any element within the declared system scope that meets the definition of “Materially Affecting Behavior.”

Material components shall be identifiable within system documentation and subject to governance controls under DAGS.

Materially Affecting Behavior

A characteristic of a component, model, configuration, integration, dataset, policy, interface, or dependency whose modification, degradation, removal, interaction, or replacement could reasonably alter:

- System outputs
- Decision pathways
- Safety posture
- Compliance posture
- Human oversight visibility
- Accountability assignments
- Risk exposure
- User reliance expectations

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Materiality shall be determined using documented criteria appropriate to the system's operational context and risk classification.

Materiality is dynamic and shall be subject to periodic reassessment as systems evolve, integrations change, or multi-agent interactions emerge.

Misrepresentation

Any statement or implication that inaccurately describes DAGS alignment, scope, authority, or effect.

Operational Environment

The real-world context in which an AI system is used, including users, integrations, dependencies, and constraints.

Owner (System Owner)

The designated role or function accountable for the governance, operation, and outcomes of a deployed AI system.

Requirement (Normative Requirement)

A mandatory obligation expressed using normative language (shall, must, required) that is binding under DAGS.

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Scope (System Scope)

The explicitly declared boundary defining what components, dependencies, integrations, and behaviors are included within a given AI system for governance purposes, including those determined to materially affect system behavior.

Traceability

The ability to link requirements to controls, controls to evidence, decisions to authority, changes to approval, and outcomes to system behavior.

Vendor

Any third party that provides models, services, components, or capabilities that meet the definition of “Materially Affecting Behavior” with respect to a deployed AI system.

4. Normative Language

The following terms are used as defined in the Normative Language Rules document:

- **Shall**
- **Must**
- **Required**
- **Shall not / Must not**

These terms indicate mandatory obligations.

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5. Interpretation

Definitions shall be applied consistently across all DAGS artifacts.

Where interpretation uncertainty arises, definitions in this appendix prevail over contextual or colloquial usage.

6. Status

This Definitions appendix is **normative**.

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

7. License & Authority

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