DAGS

DEPLOYMENT AI GOVERNANCE STANDARD

DAGS v1.0 Normative Standard

D4 — Ethics and Responsible Use

Domain Overview

1. Purpose

This domain defines the mandatory deployment-layer governance requirements that ensure AI systems are operated in a manner consistent with defined operational constraints derived from ethical and responsible-use commitments.

Its purpose is to ensure that, once an AI system is deployed:

- Operational constraints derived from ethical and responsible-use commitments are explicitly defined
- Those constraints are operationally enforced
- Responsibility for ethical boundaries is assigned to roles with documented governance competence appropriate to system risk
- Ethical intent is translated into enforceable controls
- For consequential system behaviors, human intervention or override mechanisms are available and operational

This domain is normative.

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2. Responsible Use Objective

The objective of the Ethics and Responsible Use domain is to ensure that ethical commitments are operationalized, not merely stated.

Under DAGS, responsible use requires that:

- Operational boundaries affecting deployed behavior are explicit and measurable
- Constraints on use are documented and enforced
- Oversight exists to detect and respond to misuse
- Where system outputs materially influence consequential decisions, enforceable intervention mechanisms exist

Ethics under DAGS is structural and enforceable.

For purposes of DAGS, ethical and responsible-use commitments shall be translated into measurable governance principles, including where applicable:

- Transparency of system purpose and limitations
- Explainability or interpretability appropriate to risk level
- Fairness and non-discrimination safeguards
- Accuracy and performance monitoring obligations
- Human oversight and intervention capability

These principles must be instantiated as enforceable deployment-layer controls.

Ethical constraints must be capable of being implemented, monitored, and, where necessary, overridden or interrupted in order to prevent or mitigate harm.

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3. Scope of the Domain

This domain applies to ethical and responsible-use considerations that meet the definition of materially affecting deployed system behavior, including:

- Constraints on permissible use cases
- Limitations on outputs, actions, or interactions
- Safeguards against foreseeable misuse
- Human intervention mechanisms for consequential outcomes
- Oversight mechanisms for responsible operation

The domain does not govern abstract ethical philosophy or aspirational values.

Ethical considerations are in scope only where they affect operational use and can be enforced at the deployment layer.

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4. Relationship to Other Domains

Ethics and Responsible Use builds upon:

- Governance and accountability (D1) by assigning responsibility for ethical boundaries and intervention authority
- Security and controls (D3) by enforcing responsible-use constraints and binding override authority to governed control mechanisms
- Operational integration (D5) by embedding ethical governance, oversight, and reconstruction capability into system operation

Without governance and controls, ethical commitments cannot be enforced.

Without traceability and reconstruction capability, ethical accountability cannot be demonstrated under scrutiny.

This domain defines the normative boundaries of acceptable use; other domains supply the mechanisms to enforce and evidence them.

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5. Boundary Conditions

This domain governs ethical constraints at the deployment layer, not:

- Moral theory or ethical frameworks
- Organizational culture or values programs
- Pre-deployment ethics reviews not tied to deployed behavior
- Abstract commitments unconnected to operational controls

Ethical considerations are in scope only where they affect operational use and can be enforced or interrupted.

Ethical considerations must be translated into measurable, documented constraints in order to be governed under DAGS.

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6. Interpretive Notes

This overview provides context for the controls defined in D4_Requirements.

It does not introduce requirements, assessment logic, or examples.

Interpretation shall be governed by the normative requirements that follow.

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7. Status

This Domain Overview is normative.

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

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8. License & Authority

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