



## DAGS v1.0 Normative Standard

# Definitions and Terminology

## 1. Purpose

This document defines the authoritative meanings of terms used within the DAGS v1.0 Normative Standard.

Its purpose is to:

- Ensure consistent interpretation of normative requirements
- Prevent ambiguity, drift, or reinterpretation over time
- Override informal, colloquial, or external uses of similar terminology
- Provide insurer-, regulator-, and auditor-legible definitions

All definitions in this document are normative.

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## 2. Precedence Rule

For the purposes of DAGS v1.0:

- Definitions in this document shall take precedence over:
  - Industry usage
  - Marketing terminology
  - Academic literature
  - Vendor documentation
  - Regulatory shorthand or informal interpretations



Where a term is not defined here, its plain-language meaning applies, interpreted in the context of deployment-layer governance.

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### 3. Core Defined Terms

#### **Artificial Intelligence System (AI System)**

A system that uses computational techniques to generate outputs—such as predictions, recommendations, classifications, or actions—that influence or determine outcomes in an operational environment.

For DAGS, the term applies only to deployed systems, not research artifacts.

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#### **Deployment Layer**

The operational context in which an AI system is made available for use, interaction, or reliance by users, customers, employees, or third parties.

The deployment layer includes runtime behavior, configuration, updates, integrations, and operational oversight.

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#### **Governance**

The set of structures, roles, processes, and controls that determine who is authorized to decide, how decisions are made, and how accountability is assigned for an AI system after deployment.

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Governance operationalizes accountability and authority at the deployment layer and may reflect commitments established by organizational strategy or ethics programs, without governing those programs directly.

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## Control

A documented, enforceable requirement that constrains, enables, or governs behavior, authority, or oversight within a deployed AI system.

Controls are normative and stable across versions unless explicitly deprecated.

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## Control Domain

A logical grouping of related controls addressing a specific aspect of deployment-layer governance.

DAGS v1.0 defines five control domains.

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## Evidence

Documented artifacts, records, or attestations that demonstrate the existence and operation of a required control.

Evidence demonstrates that a control exists, not how well it performs.

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## Evidence Principle

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A high-level statement defining the category, nature, or expectation of acceptable evidence for a control or control domain, without prescribing testing procedures.

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## Accountability

The assignment of responsibility for decisions, outcomes, and impacts associated with a deployed AI system.

Accountability implies the ability to answer for effects and to take corrective action.

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## Change Authority

The documented authorization to modify a deployed AI system's behavior, configuration, or operational parameters after deployment.

Change authority applies to modifications that materially affect system behavior.

Change authority includes both human and automated mechanisms.

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## Material Component

Any element within the declared system scope that meets the definition of materially affecting behavior.

Material components are subject to DAGS governance controls and evidence requirements.

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## **Materially Affecting Behavior**

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

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

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

Materiality is dynamic and subject to periodic reassessment as system architecture, integrations, or agent interactions evolve.

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## **Traceability**

The ability to attribute system behavior, changes, or outcomes to specific decisions, actors, configurations, or events.

Traceability is required for defensibility, not optimization.

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## **Operational Context**



The environment, use case, constraints, and assumptions under which an AI system is deployed and relied upon.

Operational context informs the determination of what materially affects system behavior within the declared scope.

Operational context defines how a system is expected to behave and be governed.

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## 4. Derived and Supporting Terms

### Alignment

A condition in which a deployed AI system meets all applicable normative requirements defined by DAGS v1.0 within its declared scope.

Alignment does not imply certification, approval, or endorsement.

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### Derivative Artifact

Any document, tool, or output that operationalizes, assesses, or records against the normative standard but does not itself define requirements.

Examples include questionnaires and reports.

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### Normative

Language or content that defines mandatory requirements, constraints, or authoritative interpretations.

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Normative content is binding.

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### Informative

Language or content provided for context or explanation only.

Informative content has no binding authority within DAGS.

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## 5. Prohibited Terminology Uses

The following usages are prohibited within the normative standard:

- Using “governance” to mean ethical aspiration or values statements
- Using “evidence” to mean testing methodology
- Using “risk” to imply probabilistic modeling or quantitative scoring
- Using “alignment” to imply regulatory compliance or certification

Such uses introduce ambiguity and are not permitted.

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## 6. Interpretation Discipline

Terms shall be interpreted:

- According to the definitions in this document
- Consistently across all normative files
- Without importing unstated assumptions from external frameworks

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Where interpretation disputes arise, this document governs.

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## 7. Status

This Definitions and Terminology document 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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