

DAGS

DEPLOYMENT AI GOVERNANCE STANDARD

DAGS v1.0 Normative Standard

Accountability and Ownership

1. Purpose

This document defines the cross-cutting requirements for accountability and ownership that apply across all domains of the Deployment AI Governance Standard (DAGS) v1.0.

Its purpose is to:

- Ensure every deployed AI system has clear, durable ownership
- Prevent diffusion or ambiguity of responsibility
- Establish accountability as a structural property of governance
- Support defensible attribution of decisions, actions, and outcomes

This document is normative.

2. Principle of Ownership

Each deployed AI system shall have a designated owner.

Ownership is the condition under which a specific role or function is accountable for the system as a whole, including:

- Governance compliance
- Operational behavior
- Outcomes and impacts

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- Escalation and remediation

Ownership shall not be collective, implicit, or inferred.

3. Ownership Assignment

System ownership shall be explicitly assigned and documented.

Ownership documentation shall:

- Identify the owning role or function
- Be specific to the declared system scope
- Persist across organizational or personnel changes

Reassignment of ownership shall be documented and effective immediately.

4. Accountability Requirement

Accountability shall be assigned for all governance-relevant decisions and outcomes associated with a deployed AI system.

Accountability requires that:

- A responsible role can be identified
- That role has authority commensurate with responsibility
- That role can be called upon to answer for outcomes

Accountability shall not be diluted through delegation or outsourcing.

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5. Relationship Between Ownership and Accountability

Ownership and accountability are related but distinct:

- **Ownership** establishes responsibility for the system
- **Accountability** establishes responsibility for decisions and outcomes

Both shall exist and be documented.

Assignment of one does not imply satisfaction of the other unless explicitly defined.

6. Persistence Across Change

Ownership and accountability shall persist across:

- System updates or configuration changes
- Vendor or dependency changes
- Organizational restructuring
- Operational incidents or failures

Temporary gaps in ownership or accountability are prohibited.

7. Third-Party and Vendor Context

Use of third-party vendors shall not transfer ownership or accountability away from the deploying organization.

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Contracts or service arrangements:

- May allocate operational responsibilities
- Shall not negate accountability for governance outcomes

The deploying organization remains accountable.

8. Escalation and Substitution

Where an accountable role is unavailable:

- A defined escalation or substitution mechanism shall exist
- Authority shall be temporarily reassigned
- Accountability shall remain continuous

Silence or vacancy does not suspend accountability.

9. Prohibited Conditions

The following conditions are explicitly prohibited:

- Deployed systems without an owner
- Shared accountability without defined roles
- Accountability assigned without corresponding authority
- Reliance on goodwill, expertise, or informal practice

Such conditions invalidate governance claims.

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10. Authority of This Requirement

This document governs interpretation of ownership and accountability across all DAGS domains.

In the event of conflict or ambiguity, these requirements prevail.

11. Status

This Accountability and Ownership document is **normative**.

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

12. License & Authority

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