



## DAGS v1.0 Normative Standard

# Normative Language Rules

## 1. Purpose

This document defines the mandatory language conventions used throughout the DAGS v1.0 Normative Standard.

Its purpose is to:

- Ensure consistency and legal clarity across all normative text
- Eliminate ambiguity in interpretation and enforcement
- Align DAGS language discipline with established standards practice
- Prevent dilution of requirements through informal or advisory phrasing

These rules apply to all files within [02\\_Standard\\_Text\\_\(Normative\)/DAGS\\_v1.0](#).

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## 2. Normative Modal Verbs

The following modal verbs are reserved and binding:

### Shall

Indicates a mandatory requirement.

Compliance with a “shall” statement is required for alignment with DAGS.

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## Must

Indicates an absolute obligation where no deviation is permitted.  
“Must” is used sparingly for non-negotiable conditions.

## Required

Indicates a condition that is necessary for conformity, functionally equivalent to “shall” but used for structural or definitional clarity.

“Required” shall not introduce additional normative force beyond “shall” and shall be interpreted consistently with the modal hierarchy defined in Section 9.

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## 3. Prohibited Modal Language

The following terms shall not be used to express requirements:

- Should
- May
- Can
- Could
- Recommended
- Encouraged

Such terms introduce discretion and are incompatible with normative authority.

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## 4. Conditional Statements

Conditional logic is permitted only where necessary to define applicability or scope.

Acceptable structure:

- “If [condition], the system shall...”
- “Where [condition] applies, the organization must...”

Conditionals shall not be used to soften or relativize requirements.

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## 5. Negative Requirements

Prohibitions shall be expressed explicitly using:

- “Shall not”
- “Must not”

Implicit prohibitions or advisory cautions are not permitted.

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## 6. Structural Consistency

Normative requirements shall:

- Be declarative and unambiguous
- Avoid compound or nested obligations where possible
- Use consistent terminology as defined in the Definitions and Terminology document
- Defined terms shall be capitalized and used exclusively as defined in the Definitions and Terminology document

- Informal or colloquial substitutions are prohibited
- Reference control identifiers where applicable

Requirements shall not rely on external documents for meaning.

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## 7. Avoidance of Interpretive Language

The following are prohibited within normative requirements:

- Explanatory commentary
- Rationale or justification
- Illustrative examples
- Hypothetical scenarios

Such material may appear only in non-normative contexts.

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## 8. Evidence Language Discipline

Normative text shall:

- Define what evidence must exist, not how it is collected
- Avoid procedural verbs (e.g., “test,” “measure,” “scan”)
- Refer to evidence at a category or principle level only

Evidence language shall not imply specific tools, methods, or techniques.

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## 9. Conflict Resolution

In the event of linguistic conflict:

1. “Must” overrides “shall”
2. “Shall” overrides “required”
3. Prohibitions override permissions

Where ambiguity persists, authoritative interpretation applies.

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## 10. Status

This Normative Language Rules document is normative.

It is binding for DAGS v1.0 and all subsequent versions unless explicitly superseded.

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## 11. License & Authority

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