

DAGS

DEPLOYMENT AI GOVERNANCE STANDARD

DAGS v1.0 Normative Standard

Evidence Definition Principles

1. Purpose

This document defines the foundational principles governing evidence under the Deployment AI Governance Standard (DAGS) v1.0.

Its purpose is to:

- Establish what constitutes evidence for DAGS requirements
- Ensure evidence is governance-relevant, durable, and auditable
- Prevent procedural, technical, or tool-specific lock-in
- Preserve insurer-, regulator-, and auditor-legible interpretation

This document is normative.

2. Definition of Evidence

For the purposes of DAGS, evidence is defined as:

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

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

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3. Evidence Scope

Evidence under DAGS applies only to:

- Deployment-layer governance controls
- The declared system scope and operational context
- The current operational state of the system, including components determined to materially affect system behavior

Evidence shall not be speculative, hypothetical, or aspirational.

3.1 Materiality and Evidence Relevance

Where DAGS requirements reference components or controls that materially affect system behavior, organizations shall maintain documented criteria for determining materiality within the declared system boundary.

Evidence shall reflect not only the existence of such components but also the basis upon which they were classified as material or non-material.

Determinations of materiality shall be subject to periodic reassessment to account for:

- System updates or configuration changes
- Integration of new components or agents
- Changes in dependency relationships
- Emergent behavior in multi-component or multi-agent systems

Evidence must demonstrate that reassessment mechanisms exist and operate.

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4. Evidence Characteristics

All evidence shall be:

- **Documented** – recorded in a durable form
- **Attributable** – linked to identifiable roles, systems, or controls
- **Traceable** – capable of being connected to specific requirements
- **Current** – reflective of the system as deployed, including documented reassessment of components and controls that materially affect system behavior
- **Auditable** – capable of independent review

Failure to meet these characteristics invalidates evidence.

5. Evidence vs. Procedure

DAGS distinguishes between:

- **Evidence** (what exists), and
- **Procedure** (how something is tested or verified)

The normative standard defines evidence expectations, not procedures.

Procedural methods may generate evidence but are not required by DAGS.

6. Evidence Granularity

Evidence shall be provided at a level of granularity sufficient to:

- Demonstrate satisfaction of the specific requirement

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- Support traceability to the system scope
- Avoid over- or under-specification

Where system boundaries depend on materiality determinations, evidence granularity shall be sufficient to demonstrate how materiality thresholds were defined and applied.

Excessive technical detail does not compensate for missing governance substance.

7. Evidence Ownership

Evidence shall have an identifiable owner responsible for:

- Accuracy
- Currency
- Availability during assessment or review

Unowned evidence is not acceptable.

8. Prohibited Evidence Substitutions

The following shall not be accepted as evidence:

- Statements of intent or future plans
- Marketing or promotional materials
- Tool outputs without governance context
- Assumptions of compliance or maturity

Evidence must demonstrate existence, not aspiration.

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9. Authority of Evidence Interpretation

Interpretation of evidence:

- Shall be grounded in the applicable normative requirement
- Shall not introduce new obligations
- Shall not substitute assessor judgment for documented controls

Where ambiguity exists, normative requirements govern.

10. Status

This Evidence Definition Principles document is **normative**.

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

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