



FIRST EDITION / SCHEME GOVERNANCE

RECOGNITION & ACCREDITATION SCHEME RULES

Aerospace Federation

SECTOR GOVERNANCE

COMPETENCE & TRUST

INDEPENDENT DECISIONS

Publication identity and use

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Primary AF instruments	AF-CON-001 Constitution; AF-QM-001 corporate system; AF 9100:2026 when the assessed activity uses that standard.
Adoption and effective use	Actual approval, normative process, effective date, operator and authorized initial scopes are recorded under Clause 29 and Annex P.
Relationship to earlier files	Separate scheme-rule document. The final AF 9100:2026 files, Constitution, corporate QMS and guides remain unchanged.
Controlled distribution	Publish the authorized master and exact profiles. Protect completed cases according to their personal, technical and commercial content.

One rule system; distinct responsibilities

AF sets the common scheme architecture and promotes sector adoption through technically justified requirements, competent providers and valid agreements. Rule approval, provider competence, permission to act for AF and the applicant's own result are separate decisions. A strong governance framework requires both consistent rules and independent outcomes.

How to use this document

Read Clauses 1–9 for authority, scope and rule development; Clauses 10–23 for recognition, accreditation and case administration; and Clauses 24–29 for public status, future technologies, oversight and transition. Annexes A–P contain the operational criteria, competence matrices, calculations, timetables, model authorization terms and record templates.

Source and implementation boundary

Inherited AF requirements and newly authored scheme controls are distinguished in Annex O. Numerical examples are synthetic. Finished text and blank records do not establish completed consultation, legal commencement, external recognition or an active service. Technical and jurisdiction-specific profiles require real evidence and lawful approval before use.

Contents — main clauses

Clause and annex identifiers are the controlling references. Page numbers identify the start of each section.

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Practical entry points

Role / task	Start here
Scheme owner or Council	Clauses 1–7, 11, 26–29; Annexes B, C, M, O and P.
Recognition applicant	Clauses 8–10, 17–24; Annexes A, D, H, I and K.
Laboratory or assessment body	Clauses 11–22; Annexes E, F, G, H, I and J.
Assessor, reviewer or panel	Clauses 15–19 and 23; Annexes F, G, H and L.
Record custodian or authorized operator	Clauses 20–25; Annexes I, J, K, L and P.

1 Purpose, sector governance and public benefit

1.1 Purpose and institutional ambition

These Rules establish the common architecture by which Aerospace Federation (AF) develops, owns, administers and oversees recognition, qualification, accreditation and delegated conformity-assessment programs across aviation, space, the entire defense-industrial ecosystem and connected advanced industries. The objective is a coherent sector-wide rule system with credible evidence, competent delivery, consistent decisions, accountable providers and useful public verification, rather than a collection of unrelated certificates.

1.2 Five instruments of sector governance

AF shall exercise its scheme role through published requirements and technical profiles; competence evaluation of assessment providers; written and scope-limited operating authorizations; oversight of results, credentials and marks; and proportionate corrective measures with independent remedies. AF may promote adoption through manufacturers, operators, purchasers, insurers, research networks and public institutions. Each adopting relationship shall identify what has actually been accepted and by whom.

1.3 Binding reach and participation

These Rules bind AF functions after valid institutional adoption and bind external participants to the extent incorporated into an effective application, scheme agreement, authorization or other lawful instrument. They do not impose obligations on every enterprise merely because it works in an AF sector. A purchaser may incorporate specified AF requirements into a lawful contract; that contractual choice shall not be represented as a public licensing requirement or as consent by unrelated parties.

1.4 Public authority and accurate standing

AF shall distinguish private sector governance from a statutory approval, sovereign power, military command, aviation or launch license, orbital or spectrum allocation and compulsory adjudication. A public function requires a separately evidenced lawful mandate. Where the word accreditation has a jurisdiction-specific legal meaning or restriction, the proposed service and public wording shall be cleared before launch. A different label shall not be used to evade a legal requirement.

1.5 Public benefit and proportionality

Programs shall address demonstrable sector needs, safety, quality, confidence, access, innovation and responsible use of resources. Criteria shall be proportionate to the assessed activity, technically justified and accessible to eligible small organizations and less-resourced participants. Fees, sponsorship, investment interests, membership growth and certificate volumes shall not displace evidence or independence. Recognition and accreditation remain supporting functions within AF's wider mission of cooperation, education, research and sector development.

2 Applicability, boundaries and control of this edition

2.1 Covered sectors and lifecycle

These Rules apply to AF schemes serving civil and military aviation; aircraft and component production; airports, ground and navigation services; space systems, launch-support and mission operations; exploration and human spaceflight; land, naval, air, space and cyber-related defense industry; heavy industry; and defense- or space-purpose automotive, ground-support and surface-mobility systems. Design, production, integration, test, supply, deployment, operation, maintenance, modification, reuse and responsible end of life may enter an evaluated scope. Annex A organizes scope selection without attesting competence in every listed sector.

2.2 Covered participants and conformity objects

Applicants may include organizations, manufacturers, operators, laboratories, inspection and certification bodies, engineering and digital service providers, training and research institutions, individual professionals, suppliers and subcontractors. Object-specific routes shall remain distinct: ORG, PRD, SVC, PRC, PER, SUB and CAB. Accreditation is a CAB competence result; recognition and qualification describe the exact assessed capability. A whole university, event or commercial partnership does not become accredited merely through participation.

2.3 Exclusions from automatic scheme application

Ordinary membership, a committee contribution, a scholarship, course attendance, an exhibition place, sponsorship, an award or a research partnership does not itself enter this assessment scheme. Separate published conditions govern those activities. This instrument does not establish weapon design instructions, flight-test operating limits, environmental test loads or engineering acceptance values for every product. Such values require a competent approved technical profile and the applicable permissions.

2.4 Edition and actual effectivity

The publication identity is AF-SR-001, Recognition & Accreditation Scheme Rules, First Edition, Revision 00, edition date 30 September 2026. Actual adoption, effective use, legal operator identity, delegated authority and program activation shall be recorded separately. First Edition is not evidence of completed consultation, public recognition, an operational accreditation service or an executed authorization. Annex P defines the release record and commencement controls.

2.5 Protected publications and unchanged earlier files

AF 9100:2026, Aerospace Quality Management System, First Edition, is a separately controlled final publication. These Rules do not amend its text, annexes, competence requirements, audit-time model, decision logic or time limits. They do not silently replace the Constitution, the corporate quality manual, prior procedures or the three corporate guides. Annex O records their interfaces and identifies controlled alignment actions.

3 Normative hierarchy, interpretation and source basis

3.1 Hierarchy and conflicts

Mandatory law and the controlling formation instrument prevail, followed by the lawfully adopted AF-CON-001 Constitution within its authority. An applicable technical standard governs its substantive assessment requirements; these Rules govern common scheme administration within that authority. Program profiles, agreements, procedures, forms and registers shall implement compatible requirements without reducing a superior requirement. A genuine contradiction shall be documented and escalated; affected action shall be held where necessary. A form, commercial contract or website statement cannot silently cure the conflict.

3.2 Normative terms and time

Shall states a requirement, should a recommendation and may a permission. Days are calendar days unless expressly stated otherwise. Each notice shall identify its time zone, sending and receipt basis, closing time and response channel. Month-based deadlines fall on the corresponding date or the final day of the month when that date does not exist. Later issue of a report shall not postpone a finding already formally notified. Annex I is the common timetable; a controlling earlier protective requirement remains applicable.

3.3 Inherited requirements and new controls

AF-CON-001, the compatible corporate QMS requirements and the applicable AF 9100 provisions supply the inherited governance and technical baseline. Newly authored controls in this instrument include the scheme-release record, common recognition criteria, activity-based accreditation modules,

detailed authorization terms, federation-level peer review, digital credential controls and explicit standalone-scheme defaults. Annex O identifies the distinction. A new control becomes binding only through the adoption and participation route applicable to it.

3.4 Normative annexes and explanatory examples

Annexes A–F and H–N contain requirements within their stated application. Annex G contains normative planning controls and separately identified informative calculations. Annex O is an informative alignment map; Annex P contains normative release controls and record fields. A completed example or model agreement is not an actual finding, certificate or executed corporate act. Required record content may be captured in an equivalent controlled system, provided no mandatory field or decision control is lost.

3.5 Controlled references and available criteria

The issuer shall provide access to the exact rule, profile and standard versions necessary to understand an assessment, subject to lawful rights and confidentiality. AF document codes in Annex O resolve to the established corporate document family. No external organization's endorsement, standard equivalence or accreditation recognition is implied. External documents used as actual case evidence shall be identified lawfully in the protected case file, not erased to create a false appearance of exclusively AF-origin evidence.

4 Definitions and distinct claims

4.1 Recognition

A recorded AF conclusion that an identified organization, capability, program or service satisfies specified recognition criteria within a stated scope and period. Recognition shall name the criteria and evidence basis. It is not a lighter substitute for accreditation where a claim concerns competence to perform conformity assessment.

4.2 Accreditation and CAB

Accreditation is an independent, authorized attestation of a conformity-assessment body's competence, impartiality and consistent operation for defined assessment activities. CAB means a body performing testing, calibration, inspection, certification, validation, verification or another specified conformity-assessment activity. Its scope shall describe the activity, object, method, range, location and limitations, not merely its sector or corporate name.

4.3 Authorization, operator and scheme owner

Authorization is AF's express written permission to perform specified functions or use specified scheme marks, supported by the required competence decision and agreement. The scheme owner controls the requirements and maintenance system. The operator is the identified legal entity administering or delivering the scheme. The accrediting entity, certification issuer, laboratory and technical profile owner shall be identified separately where their functions differ. Competence attestation and operating permission are related but separate decisions.

4.4 Other status terms

Certification attests conformity of a specified object to stated requirements. Qualification attests defined technical or professional capability under a profile. A supplier-development status identifies improvement or bounded trial work, not a conformity certificate. A network listing identifies a relationship and its verified information, not accreditation. An award identifies achievement under its own competition rules. A self-declaration shall identify the interested declarant and shall not be presented as independent AF assurance.

4.5 Evidence, profile, criticality and witnessing

Objective evidence is verifiable information relevant to a requirement. A profile is the controlled technical and administrative definition of the evaluated object, criteria, methods and decision basis. Criticality describes the credible consequence of failure in the actual context; it is not a commercial

ranking. Witnessing is competent observation of representative work, with its identity, conditions, method, personnel and conclusions traced. Observing a sales demonstration is not automatically witnessing a controlled assessment.

4.6 Status, scope and reliance

An attestation is ongoing when it represents continuing capability or conformity maintained by surveillance. It is an instance result when limited to a stated lot, serial, test, service event or other identified occurrence. Scope restriction preserves only an independently demonstrated unaffected part. Suspension temporarily prohibits affected claims; withdrawal ends the permission or attestation. Reliance is another party's bounded use of evidence after checking authenticity, relevance and authority; it does not transfer responsibility for that party's own acceptance decision.

5 Governance, responsibilities and decision independence

5.1 Presidential Council and President

The Presidential Council remains AF's corporate Board of Directors under AF-CON-001. It approves scheme strategy, policy, budgets, legal operators, resources, charters and institutional authorization arrangements within its lawful powers. The President leads implementation and may execute validly delegated functions and agreements. Neither a leadership title nor a signature mandate authorizes the alteration of a case's technical conclusion. Constitutional succession, appointment and voting provisions are not restated or changed by these Rules.

5.2 Elected committees and functional councils

Permanent voting technical, sector and oversight committees and their chairs shall follow the Constitution's election rules. The Standards Board, Accreditation Council and Conformity Assessment Council are functional structures under approved charters, not alternative corporate boards. A charter shall identify whether a body develops policy, coordinates expertise, oversees a program or performs a defined independent case function. Appointment to a case panel or working group does not create a permanent elected office.

5.3 Secretariat and accountable owners

The Assurance Programme Manager administers the scheme, the Standards Secretariat coordinates rule development, the Quality Manager controls the document system, the corporate secretary verifies powers and agreements, and the information function controls registry integrity and access. Each named role requires an actual competent appointment, resources, deputy arrangements and a recorded mandate. One person may hold compatible administrative roles but shall not combine incompatible evaluation, commercial or appeal roles.

5.4 Technical evaluation, review and decision

The evaluator records evidence and findings; a competent independent reviewer checks the dossier; the authorized decision function determines the permitted result. A reviewer and decision maker may be the same person only when separately authorized and independent of the evaluation, applicant consultancy and disqualifying interests, as permitted for applicable AF 9100 work. Final accreditation grants, renewals, extensions and contested adverse outcomes shall use the three-person panel in Annex B as an additional control of these Rules.

5.5 Oversight and remedies

The elected Ethics and Impartiality Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, Election Committee and Appeals Committee retain their constitutional mandates. Their protected access and reporting shall extend to the scheme. An ordinary appeal panel shall contain three independent persons and exclude the original evaluator, reviewer, decision maker and materially implicated individuals. A governance body may require lawful reassessment or procedural correction but shall not order a favorable result.

5.6 Decisions that cannot be delegated away

AF shall retain responsibility for its published scheme, authority register, marks and oversight. A certification or accreditation issuer retains final decision responsibility even when technical work is outsourced. A panel member shall not delegate a vote to a sales agent, applicant or automated model. Insufficient independent competence shall result in external independent resourcing, a held decision or restricted activity, rather than an invented approval.

6 Rule-making, consultation and global application profiles

6.1 Initiation and sector roadmap

AF shall maintain a public work program identifying priority needs, intended users, sector coverage, responsible committees and expected deliverables. Any member or relevant stakeholder may propose a rule or technical profile. A proposal shall explain the problem, public benefit, available evidence, existing approaches, burden, feasibility and how the work can support lawful cross-border use. Foresight topics shall be differentiated from technically validated requirements.

6.2 Development and consultation

Substantive rules or profiles creating conformity obligations shall undergo the AF-CON-001 Article 17 process regardless of their title. The responsible elected committee shall develop technically justified text, perform representative checks and make a substantive proposal available for at least 60 calendar days of public comment. Comments shall receive recorded dispositions. Material new obligations added afterward require further review or consultation proportionate to their effect before approval.

6.3 Technical approval and publication

For the final normative ballot, at least two thirds of eligible voting committee members shall cast substantive yes-or-no votes and at least two thirds of those votes shall be affirmative, rounding upward. Abstention does not meet substantive participation. The Council then authorizes publication after checking legality, process, rights and resources, without privately rewriting the technical decision. Voting arithmetic never compensates for unresolved essential safety evidence or an invalid method.

6.4 Global core and local supplements

The architecture shall use a common AF core, activity modules, sector overlays and exact application profiles. A local supplement may identify a mandatory local duty, language, lawful authority or operating restriction; it shall not quietly lower the common technical core or imply recognition in another jurisdiction. Deviations shall be visible in the scope and cleared through the controlling instrument. Requirements should be performance-based where suitable and allow demonstrably equivalent technical methods under prospective approved rules.

6.5 Interpretation, change and obsolescence

Interpretations explain existing requirements. Editorial corrections preserve substantive effect. New criteria, relaxed minima, revised privileges or changed decision thresholds require formal controlled revision. Review these Rules and each active profile at least every three years and sooner after significant technology, incident, legal or performance evidence. Existing holders shall receive an impact assessment and explicit transition conditions; neither indefinite grandfathering nor retrospective cancellation is presumed.

6.6 Prospective adoption and no shortcut

The initial adoption of this instrument shall complete the applicable normative process; its finished publication file is not a substitute for consultation and approval records. Urgent factual protective communications may be issued within actual authority, but cannot create a new conformity requirement by being labelled an alert. An interim advisory retains its constitutional non-final status and cannot support an unrestricted production credential.

7 Scheme architecture and release prerequisites

7.1 Four separate approval layers

Before a claim is issued, the record shall distinguish: approval of the rule/profile; competence approval of the evaluating provider; authorization to operate or use AF marks where required; and the independent outcome for the applicant object. A Council program resolution is not a CAB competence decision. A CAB certificate is not an executed authorization MoU. An operator agreement is not approval of the products it will later examine.

7.2 Scheme charter and profile

Each scheme shall have an Annex C release record naming the operator, purpose, beneficiaries, object routes, criteria, methods, evidence, criticality, geographic scope, decision authority, fees, clocks, surveillance, marks, registry fields, complaints, records and closure obligations. Every criterion shall be testable or verifiable. Missing test limits, competence profiles or essential access arrangements shall keep that scope closed to formal applications; an expression-of-interest register may be used instead.

7.3 Pilot and operational readiness

Readiness shall include competent people, actual delegations, conflict checks, financial and liability arrangements, methods, secure evidence handling, tested registry access, continuity, independent appeals and operational rehearsal. Test at least a complete synthetic pass case, an essential evidence failure, a conflict, a suspension, an appeal and a registry correction. A pilot shall identify its restricted purpose and cannot issue normal credentials unless every applicable live-scheme condition is already met.

7.4 Activation and published boundaries

Only an authorized activation record may change program status from development or pilot to active. The notice shall identify available scopes and unavailable capabilities, actual approval and effective dates, application channels, fee terms and independent remedy routes. A website category, named council or listed laboratory shall not be used as evidence of activation. Annex P includes the minimum go/no-go record.

7.5 Continuous release control

New methods, sectors, locations, decision functions and substantial technology changes shall trigger an impact review before release. A change may be contained in an existing profile only within its prospectively authorized flexibility. The operator shall retain earlier versions and actual case baselines. Withdrawal of a method or program shall provide for existing holders, outstanding findings, records and truthful public status.

8 Access, eligibility, contracts and responsibilities

8.1 Objective access

Eligible members and non-members shall have access under the published scheme criteria and applicable restrictions. No applicant shall be required to buy membership, sponsorship, consultancy or an unrelated AF course as a condition of an independent result. Necessary learning or qualification prerequisites shall be relevant, justified and open to verified equivalent preparation. Preferential scheduling shall not undermine equal treatment or critical evidence requirements.

8.2 Application and authority

The application shall establish legal or personal identity, the authorized representative, ownership and relevant affiliations, requested outcome, route, technical scope, sites, methods, current claims, previous relevant decisions and evidence access. Organizational intention to apply and representative authority shall be verified. The administrator shall request only information necessary for the application and shall not demand unrestricted classified or commercially unrelated records.

8.3 Feasibility review before commitment

Before contracting, the operator shall confirm that the scope is within its real authorization, its assessors cover the methods and languages, evidence access can be lawful and sufficient, conflicts can be controlled and the work can be resourced. The applicant shall receive a written explanation of criteria, methods, fees, responsibilities, timetable, permitted claim, refusal possibility and appeal process. A received application or paid invoice is not admission or accreditation.

8.4 Binding participation terms

An accepted scheme agreement shall identify the parties, applicable versions, scope, access and witnessing permissions, truthful disclosure, permitted subcontracting, change reporting, liability allocation, fees, marks, confidentiality, publication fields, surveillance, sanctions, appeals, termination and records. Governing law and dispute arrangements shall be established through competent review, not invented as a universal default. The agreement shall preserve mandatory reporting, inspection and court rights.

8.5 Applicant and holder responsibilities

The applicant shall provide authentic, complete and materially current evidence, including relevant adverse results. The holder retains responsibility for its actual products, services, people, methods and claims. It shall permit agreed oversight, maintain current conditions, report significant changes and cease prohibited use after suspension or withdrawal. A third-party result does not transfer design, operator or employer responsibility to AF.

8.6 Fees and financial separation

Fee schedules shall disclose application, assessment, travel, testing, surveillance, renewal and any justified reassessment costs before commitment, including cancellation and refund conditions. No fee is specified by this edition. Revenue, assessor pay and referral arrangements shall not depend on a favorable conclusion. Non-payment may trigger only the agreed fair administrative process; it shall not be disguised as a technical failure or used to suppress a safety complaint.

9 Impartiality, ethics and structural safeguards

9.1 Institutional risk analysis

AF and each operator shall maintain a live impartiality analysis covering ownership, governance, common personnel, consulting, design, manufacture, investment, referrals, sponsor dependence, market relationships and prior work. Controls shall address actual influence, not merely a different logo, department name or committee. Material residual threats shall be challenged independently and the affected service withheld where independence cannot be demonstrated.

9.2 Accrediting entity separation

An entity performing accreditation under this scheme shall not also provide the conformity-assessment services it accredits or applicant-specific consultancy that compromises accreditation. AF shall use a legally and functionally suitable delivery structure and independent arrangements where required. Shared support services may be used only with controlled access, influence and financial conflicts. AF shall not accredit itself or its own assessment operation, directly or through reciprocal nominal approvals.

9.3 Case-level exclusions

For third-party evaluation, review and decisions, relevant consultancy or employment for the applicant during the preceding 24 months excludes the person from the case. Older relationships, ownership, material financial ties, family and close relationships shall also be reviewed. The 24-month exclusion is inherited for AF 9100 cases and adopted here as a standalone-scheme minimum for corresponding independent roles. Internal auditors instead require independence from the work audited, not separation from all employment.

9.4 Conduct and commercial controls

Personnel shall reject corrupt inducements, undisclosed commissions, outcome-linked remuneration and requests to conceal adverse evidence. Gifts, travel support and hospitality shall follow recorded common conditions. Explaining a published requirement is permissible; designing the applicant's corrective solution and then independently certifying that solution is not. Commercial teams shall not select a favorable assessor or change a technical scope to secure a sale.

9.5 Protected reporting and oversight

People may report safety, integrity, competence and conflict concerns without retaliation or an application fee. Allegations shall be investigated fairly and shall not be treated as established fact without evidence. The independent oversight function shall receive unedited findings, appropriate access and a protected budget. Where a director, executive or panel selector is implicated, case assignment shall pass to a disinterested route.

10 Recognition and qualification requirements

10.1 Defined recognition routes

AF Recognition may address an organization's defined institutional capability, an educational or research program, a technical service capability or a supplier's specified work. AF Qualified may address a particular task, role, process capability or supply scope under an approved profile. Neither label shall substitute for the CAB accreditation route where the claimed conclusion is competence to independently assess others. Annex D establishes the common recognition criteria and route-specific evidence.

10.2 Common mandatory evidence

Recognition shall require verified identity and authority; a defined scope and accountable management; implemented relevant procedures; competent people; appropriate resources; lawful activity and information access; records of actual delivered work; risk and change control; handling of complaints and nonconforming work; and truthful claims. At least one complete representative delivered-work trail shall be examined, with adverse cases where they exist. A policy folder alone does not demonstrate operation.

10.3 Scope and technical depth

A recognition profile shall specify the capability it evaluates and any additional technical criteria. A manufacturer's organizational recognition does not establish product conformity; a research institution's recognition does not validate every published claim; a training program's recognition does not confer degree-awarding power or professional licensing. Where a technical claim requires testing, observation or examination, these activities shall be performed under the relevant module rather than replaced by a promotional questionnaire.

10.4 All requirements and limited scope

Initial grant, renewal and extension require all nonconformities within the granted scope to be closed. A narrower scope may be granted only if it is real, independently assessed and unaffected by unresolved systemic defects. Improvement plans may support a separate development relationship, but no development, applicant or pilot status shall be portrayed as granted recognition. An aggregate maturity score may inform improvement but shall not override a mandatory criterion.

10.5 Recognition statement and continuing duties

The decision and public record shall specify the legal entity or program, criteria, profile revision, examined locations, capability, restrictions, decision date, expiry or instance boundary and issuer. Recognition shall be monitored under Annex I. Any term such as Corporate Recognised denotes a bounded technical status, not a new membership category, extra vote or automatic committee office. A logo permission shall state the precise permitted wording.

11 Accreditation-body governance and independent scrutiny

11.1 Accrediting operator capability

Before performing accreditation, the responsible legal operator shall demonstrate a defined governance structure, impartiality, sufficient technically competent assessors and decision personnel, scope-management procedures, financial continuity, suitable liability arrangements, secure records, complaints and appeals, internal audit and management review. Accreditation capability shall be demonstrated for each activity family it proposes to assess, including the ability to witness and challenge technically difficult or unsuccessful work.

11.2 Independent pre-launch review

The accrediting operator shall undergo independent readiness review before initial public operation. Under these Rules, this review shall be performed by at least three competent reviewers collectively covering accreditation practice, the proposed technical activities and governance/integrity. No reviewer may review their own system design or a materially conflicted operation. This peer review is a new AF scheme safeguard, not self-accreditation or automatic recognition by another system.

11.3 Ongoing peer review

The accrediting operator shall receive an independent review at intervals not exceeding 36 months and earlier after material expansion, serious failure or compromised independence. Its plan shall include witnessed assessment, review of decisions and appeals, competence sampling, scope claims, impartiality, resources and technical consistency. Identified deficiencies require correction and effective restrictions where needed. The 36-month institutional review does not extend a holder's 24-month attestation ceiling or surveillance duties.

11.4 Decision protection and consistency

Accreditation cases shall be decided through Annex B's independent panel after completed technical review. Panel competence shall cover the case and permit challenge of the evaluation. Calibration of assessors and decision personnel shall use anonymized or synthetic cases, dissent and objective criteria; it shall not force favorable decisions or predetermined acceptance rates. The quality function shall track inconsistent treatment and investigate systemic causes.

11.5 External acceptance

AF may seek lawful cooperation or recognition arrangements with competent organizations. Every arrangement shall identify its actual parties, technical scope, jurisdiction, acceptance conditions, monitoring and termination. A successful AF peer review, membership in a network or a commercial MoU is not proof of statutory accreditation status, international arrangement membership or another authority's acceptance. Annex M governs evidence-based reliance and equivalence.

12 Common requirements for conformity-assessment bodies

12.1 Legal responsibility and governance

A CAB shall identify the legal entity responsible for each activity, ownership, controlling interests, organizational structure, authorized managers and scope of service. It shall maintain sufficient people, methods, equipment, premises or controlled digital facilities and financial continuity to complete contracted work and continuing obligations. Its contracts shall disclose the actual issuer and shall not suggest that AF assumes every liability of the CAB.

12.2 Technical scope and personnel

Every claimed scope shall identify the activity, object family, methods, relevant quantities or properties, ranges and conditions, operating sites, key equipment and competence limits. Calibration scopes shall state demonstrated uncertainty capability. Personnel shall be authorized for application review, methods,

sampling, performance, report approval, independent review and decisions as applicable. A broad quality-system certificate is not evidence of all technical capabilities.

12.3 Management and operational control

The CAB shall implement controlled documents, authentic records, risk review, procurement, complaints, corrective action, internal audit and management review. Each contracted case shall be traceable from acceptance through execution and result to amendment and continuing duties. It shall control external personnel and subcontracted technical work to equivalent applicable requirements while retaining its own final decision accountability.

12.4 Evidence integrity and access

Raw results, configuration, sample identity, method revision, instrument status, environmental conditions, personnel and calculations shall be retrievable. Failed runs and amended reports shall be retained with reasons. Data processing, spreadsheets, automated interfaces and reporting software shall be verified for their intended use. Confidential or controlled access arrangements must still permit sufficient authorized technical scrutiny; inaccessible essential evidence is not presumed satisfactory.

12.5 Continuing validity and impartial service

The CAB shall monitor performance using appropriate checks, comparisons, witnessing, representative case review and feedback, and assess the effect of adverse results on earlier work. Relationships with applicants, training, consultancy and related entities shall be reviewed under Clause 9. Statements shall separate accredited scope from unaccredited or subcontracted work. Critical uncertainty or compromised independence shall block the affected claim.

13 Testing and calibration accreditation modules

13.1 Methods and validation

A testing or calibration laboratory shall demonstrate method suitability for the actual measurand, object, range and environment. It shall verify implementation of an established method and validate a new or materially modified method. The evidence shall address relevant bias, precision, range, selectivity, detection capability, robustness, environmental influences and data processing. A borrowed procedure without demonstrated local capability is insufficient.

13.2 Traceability, equipment and uncertainty

Measurement traceability shall be supported by a documented chain of calibrations, reference materials or other technically justified references, with relevant uncertainties. Equipment shall be identified, calibrated or verified within suitable intervals and protected against invalid adjustment. Uncertainty shall reflect actual conditions and include sampling where the laboratory is responsible. Out-of-tolerance or expired equipment requires an assessment of affected earlier results and not merely a new calibration.

13.3 Samples and execution

The laboratory shall control receipt, identity, condition, preparation, handling, environment, chain of custody, storage, consumption and disposal. Deviations shall be reviewed before results support acceptance. Witnessed work shall demonstrate competent sample preparation, setup, execution, raw-data capture, calculations, interpretation and report authorization. Hazardous environmental, energy, pressure or destructive tests require independently adequate safe operating arrangements and actual permissions.

13.4 Proficiency and result assurance

The laboratory shall maintain a risk-based program of proficiency testing, interlaboratory comparison, reference checks, control samples or technically justified alternatives covering significant methods. Lack of a suitable external comparison requires a documented alternative and its limitations. Participation alone is insufficient when results are unsatisfactory. Adverse evidence shall trigger method and personnel review, look-back to earlier reports, corrective action and restriction where necessary.

13.5 Reports and conformity statements

Reports shall distinguish measured results from conformity statements and identify the method, sample, relevant conditions, uncertainty where required, decision rule, deviations, authorized signatory and accreditation boundary. A general laboratory mark shall not imply product certification. An amended report shall identify the superseded result and notify affected recipients. Calibration capability shall not be advertised as lower uncertainty than actually demonstrated for the stated conditions.

14 Inspection, certification and validation modules

14.1 Inspection

An inspection body shall define the objects, stage of inspection, criteria, access conditions, tools, personnel qualifications and required independence. It shall demonstrate recognition of relevant defect mechanisms, limitations of visual or non-destructive techniques, acceptance boundaries and technical reporting. Inaccessible characteristics shall not be reported as directly examined. Internal or customer inspection relationships shall be declared and shall not be disguised as independent third-party inspection.

14.2 Management-system certification

A management-system certification body shall demonstrate application review, scope and team selection, readiness and implementation assessment, audit-time justification, site and shift coverage, reporting, finding closure, independent review, decisions and surveillance. For AF 9100 ORG cases, Annexes AB and AC set the controlling competence and resource floors. Accreditation shall witness an actual representative end-to-end audit trail and examine unfavorable as well as favorable cases.

14.3 Product, service and process certification

A body assessing PRD, SVC or PRC objects shall demonstrate ability to approve a precise profile, select representative samples or executions, apply valid tests and decision rules and maintain the claim through appropriate continuing controls. Product family representation requires justified configuration and production coverage. A service needs observed delivery and outcomes; a process needs qualified essential variables and monitoring. A management-system audit shall not substitute for these activities.

14.4 Personnel certification

A personnel body shall use a valid job/task analysis, verified candidate prerequisites, secured examination material, representative practical assessment, observable scoring and an independent decision outside the examiner. It shall manage identity, accommodations, attempts, conflicts, question security, continued practice and renewal. AF 9100 PER cases follow Annex AE. Training attendance and certification remain separate, and a credential does not grant a protected occupational license or the employer's task authorization.

14.5 Validation and verification

A validation/verification body shall define the claim, intended use, evidence period, boundary, applicable criteria and required assurance. Validation shall identify prospective assumptions and limitations; verification shall address the supported historical or current claim. Materiality, sampling, model uncertainty, competence, independent review and report amendments shall be specified. A future forecast shall not be certified as an already achieved outcome. A profile-specific assessment is required for environmental, digital or mission claims.

14.6 Additional technical-provider activities

Proficiency providers, reference-material producers, simulation centers, engineering evaluators and other specialist organizations may enter a program only with a dedicated approved activity module and technically adequate criteria. These Rules provide the common governance framework, not a blanket declaration that every such accreditation module is already operational. Research or network recognition shall not be used to conceal the absence of a technically complete accreditation basis.

15 Auditors, assessors, technical experts and decision personnel

15.1 Role-specific competence

Competence shall be defined separately for application reviewers, auditors, lead auditors, laboratory and inspection assessors, technical experts, reviewers, decision makers, examiners and appeal reviewers. Authorization shall identify routes, sectors, methods, consequence limits, languages and supervision. Annex F gives minimum evidence and continuing requirements. A generic aerospace title does not establish competence in every method or defense, space and industrial subdomain.

15.2 Demonstration and independent authorization

Qualifications, experience, learning, mentored work and observed performance shall be verified, not merely copied from a résumé. Third-party audit roles shall meet the training, experience, examination, practical and mentored-work minima in Annex F. Essential safety, integrity and independence steps must all pass. Initial candidate authorization shall be reviewed independently; the initial AF assessor population may use the documented two-person independent competence panel prescribed by the applicable baseline, not reciprocal self-approval.

15.3 Assignment and technical coverage

Before assignment, the operator shall confirm current authorization, workload, conflicts, language, access, method coverage and relevant technical practice. High-consequence or novel work requires an actively participating technical specialist. Where one team covers multiple modules, the plan shall identify who examines each material requirement and who can challenge the conclusion. A specialist's name without substantive participation does not meet coverage.

15.4 Continuing competence and inactivity

Continuing learning, practice, report-quality review, witnessed work, complaints and consistency checks shall be monitored on their actual clocks. Failure to meet an applicable minimum shall suspend independent role authorization until verified reactivation. Knowledge updates alone shall not restore an unobserved practical skill. New sectors, major technical changes or adverse performance require targeted reassessment before expansion.

15.5 Competence records and confidentiality

The dossier shall retain verified entry evidence, scope, training, assessment blueprint, scores, essential-step outcomes, mentored work, independent decisions, witnessed reviews, development, conflicts and status changes. Public registries shall display only the necessary role, issuer, scope and current status. Raw examination content and sensitive personal records remain access-controlled, without obstructing lawful independent scrutiny.

16 Assessment planning, time and representative coverage

16.1 Planning before pricing

The lead assessor shall establish the complete scope, method families, sites, shifts, remote functions, personnel, critical activities, subcontracting, change history and evidence constraints before confirming resources. The plan shall allocate evaluation, reporting, independent review and decision separately. A fee quote shall not determine the technical scope or force a reduction below a necessary evidence floor.

16.2 Applicable time model

AF 9100 organizational assessments shall use that standard's Annex AC calculation and coverage minima, reproduced only as a controlled reference in Annex G. Other recognition and CAB activities shall use the task-based resource plan in Annex G, supported by sufficient productive hours for each method and case trail. The organizational headcount model shall not be imposed on a personnel examination, laboratory calibration or destructive product test. No universal CAB duration is inferred from staff count alone.

16.3 Sites, shifts and critical activities

Every included physical operating site shall be evaluated at initial grant and renewal under these Rules; central functions and relevant remote work shall also be covered. For AF 9100 ORG surveillance only, its explicitly eligible homogeneous C0/C1 sampling pool may be used under Annex AC. No such site-sampling formula automatically applies to CAB method witnessing or unique critical processes. High-consequence and materially distinct activities shall receive direct appropriate coverage.

16.4 Witnessing plan

The plan shall identify each distinct method family or assessment route, its representative task, highest relevant consequence, location, personnel, required observation and retained evidence. Initial and renewal accreditation shall witness representative work for every distinct family or route, with technically justified grouping. Controlled representative tasks may be used where the activity permits and validity is demonstrated; a simulation shall not be misrepresented as a live certified customer case.

16.5 Sampling and limitations

Record the population, sample unit, selection method, coverage, prior adverse cases and reasons for exclusions. Include unsuccessful work, amended reports, complaints and change cases when present. Judgmental sampling provides evidence about sampled work, not a statistical confidence statement about the whole system. Systemic findings, fraud indicators or inadequate coverage require expansion. The independent reviewer shall reject an unjustified sample reduction.

16.6 Remote and restricted evidence

Remote work requires suitable identity verification, lawful access, reliable live observation, configuration linkage, secure transfer and sufficient detail. Where physical conditions cannot be adequately assessed remotely, use on-site or other valid controlled witnessing. Access limitations shall lead to additional arrangements or restricted/refused scope. Recording or transferring controlled material requires permission; neither confidentiality nor technology limitations can turn missing critical evidence into a pass.

17 Evaluation execution and evidence integrity

17.1 Readiness assessment

The initial assessment shall verify the applicant's scope, criteria, organization, implemented methods, competence, internal audit or equivalent self-evaluation, management review, evidence access and operational readiness. For AF 9100 ORG cases, the full applicable internal-audit and management-review prerequisites remain mandatory. A new organization may proceed when sufficient real evidence exists; fabricated historical records or arbitrary unsubstantiated years of operation shall not be demanded.

17.2 Implementation and technical assessment

The team shall observe actual activities, interview relevant personnel, examine configuration and process interfaces, test the use of procedures and trace representative outputs to source evidence. Laboratory and CAB work shall include technical witnessing, not only a document review. Each conclusion shall reference the requirement, actual evidence, observed limitation and responsible evaluator. Mere institutional prestige shall not replace demonstrated capability.

17.3 Evidence provenance and digital tools

Evidence shall identify the object, method, version, actual date, creator, conditions and trace to originals. Digital logs, models, AI-assisted analyses and remote feeds shall be checked for authenticity, completeness, configuration and known limitations. Protect evidence against selective presentation, copied records, hidden failed runs, retrospective alteration and unauthorized synthetic content. Automated anomaly detection may assist but cannot be the sole final authority.

17.4 Immediate holds and findings

Anyone observing a credible uncontrolled hazard or material evidence-integrity failure shall initiate the permitted protective hold and notify the responsible authority without waiting for final reporting. Findings shall separate substantiated failures, unresolved evidence and improvement suggestions. The applicant shall have a fair opportunity to correct factual errors; this does not give the applicant authority to negotiate away a valid requirement or veto an adverse finding.

17.5 Report and handover

The final report shall record scope, versions, sites, personnel, productive time, methods, samples, witnessing, evidence, findings, limitations and recommendation. Issue it within 14 calendar days after evaluation closure unless a documented exceptional delay is communicated; finding, safety and notification clocks remain unchanged. The evaluator's recommendation shall not be described as the independent decision. Preserve dissent and the full trail supplied to the reviewer.

18 Decision rules, findings and corrective action

18.1 Pre-agreed decision basis

Before evaluation, the profile shall specify each mandatory criterion, required evidence, applicable uncertainty or scoring rule, non-compensable essential steps, required independence and permissible outcomes. Criteria shall not be selected after results are known. An initial positive result requires a valid scope, all applicable criteria met, adequate evidence, closed in-scope nonconformities and an authorized independent decision. Annex H provides the operational decision matrix.

18.2 Measurement and indeterminate outcomes

Measurement decisions shall use corrected results, suitable methods, justified uncertainty and the rule agreed before evaluation. AF 9100 cases retain DR-A, DR-B and DR-C under Annex AD. An interval overlapping a limit may mean conformity has not been demonstrated without proving the item physically defective. Indeterminate results remain held until valid further evidence or lawful disposition resolves them. Repeating a test until a favorable result occurs is prohibited.

18.3 Critical, major and minor findings

Critical findings include uncontrolled unacceptable safety or mission risk, deliberate material falsification or serious compromise of essential evidence. Major findings identify an absent or broken required control materially undermining conformity. Minor findings identify a localized unmet requirement without demonstrated system breakdown. Related minor findings shall be examined together for systemic significance. An observation or improvement suggestion is not a nonconformity unless an actual requirement is unmet.

18.4 Corrective action and verification

The applicant shall contain the effect, establish scope and cause, correct the failure, implement appropriate preventive recurrence controls and supply effectiveness evidence. The operator shall verify actual implementation, affected earlier work and sustained correction by a suitable method. A revised policy alone does not close a practice failure. Preserve the original notification and due dates; a new finding number or action plan shall not reset an overdue clock.

18.5 Grant versus continuing status

Initial grant, renewal and extension require closure of all nonconformities in the granted scope. Existing status may continue with a localized minor only with adequate correction or containment, accepted plan, reviewed cause and extent, no compromised essential control and verified closure within the timetable. A major requires immediate review of continuing conformity and suspension unless an independently demonstrated unaffected scope can be formally restricted. Future promises are not proof of current conformity.

18.6 Concessions and evidence gaps

A lawful engineering concession, controlled pilot or supplier-development trial may permit bounded work under its own authority, but is not a conditional conformity certificate. A scope exclusion shall not hide a systemic defect affecting the remaining claim. Missing mandatory evidence, a failed essential practical step or an unacceptable unresolved risk cannot be offset by points, low incident counts, on-time delivery, management commitment or payment.

19 Independent review, decision and attestation

19.1 Review completeness

The independent reviewer shall check actual authorization, scope, profile version, evaluator competence and independence, resource adequacy, representative witnessing, method validity, evidence sufficiency, all applicable requirements, findings, closure and the exact permitted conclusion. Incomplete or contradictory dossiers shall be returned with reasons. Critical technical disagreement shall be resolved competently rather than averaged across reviewers.

19.2 Decision authority

The decision shall be taken by a properly authorized, competent and conflict-cleared function independent of the evaluation. Accreditation uses the three-person case panel specified in Annex B; other routes use the competent decision authority in the approved charter. Panel quorum, vote and unresolved technical objections shall be recorded. The President, Council and commercial staff may not substitute their preference for the supported result.

19.3 Permitted outcomes

The decision may grant, refuse, maintain, renew, extend, restrict, suspend, restore, correct or withdraw a precisely identified status. Every outcome shall identify reasons, requirements, evidence, scope, actual effective time, signatory and any appeal route. Refusal of one scope shall not imply assessment of unrelated activities. An applicant may reapply after verified correction, with prior findings and configurations preserved.

19.4 Content of attestation

The statement shall identify issuer and responsible legal entity, unique ID, holder, program and criteria, edition/profile revision, object route, exact technical scope, sites, configurations or role, decision and issue dates, expiry or instance boundary, limitations and verification route. Multiple objects may share a document only if each has a separate conclusion and independently visible status. A scope schedule is integral, not optional marketing detail.

19.5 Release and notification

The issuer shall notify the holder of the decision and explain continuing obligations, exact mark permission and remedies. Release shall require completed decision evidence and any separately required authorization, signed terms and licensing conditions. Routine registry changes shall occur within two calendar days of the status decision; critical protection is immediate and shall not wait for that interval. No later publication or signature date may backdate conformity.

20 Authorization MoU, delegated operators and partners

20.1 When an authorization MoU is required

An organization acting on behalf of AF in accreditation or certification, operating an AF assessment scheme, issuing delegated AF recognition or conformity marks, or claiming these permissions shall first obtain written approval and execute a binding Cooperation and Authorization Memorandum of Understanding with its scope schedule. This follows AF-CON-001 Article 18. Ordinary membership,

education, exhibiting, sponsorship or research cooperation does not require this special MoU merely by participation.

20.2 Competence before permission

Independent assessment shall establish the proposed operator's competence and scope. The authorized institutional function shall then confirm the legal and contractual permission, marks and geographic conditions. A signed MoU does not cure a failed competence assessment. Conversely, a competence certificate alone does not permit an organization to act for AF or grant onward authorizations. Approval, agreement and scope shall all be effective before the claim is used.

20.3 Mandatory terms and limits

Annex J supplies the complete model term structure and schedules. The instrument shall identify exact parties, powers, exclusions, criteria and versions, territories, sites, personnel, independence, oversight, reporting, fees, records, data, intellectual property, mark use, liability arrangements, duration, change, suspension, termination and governing law. Commercial particulars and signature fields shall be completed with real decisions; the model shall not be circulated as an executed appointment.

20.4 Subdelegation and international representation

No onward authorization, sublicensing or territorial exclusivity is inferred from silence. Permitted subcontracting shall be documented, competent and supervised; final decisions remain with the designated issuer. A chapter, regional representative, distributor or general partner shall not issue AF credentials outside an express technical operating mandate. Regulatory recognition and a government representation mandate require their own evidence.

20.5 Operator monitoring and termination

AF shall retain access to the information and representative witnessing necessary to oversee authorized work lawfully. Material failures may lead to corrective action, restricted scope, suspension or withdrawal with reasons and independent appeal. Termination shall specify effects on new business, surveillance, clients, pending cases, records and public claims. It does not automatically cancel every sound prior result or transfer the provider's accreditation to another entity.

21 Surveillance, renewal and material changes

21.1 Ongoing period and instance boundaries

For standalone programs adopting these Rules, the maximum ongoing recognition, qualification or accreditation period is 24 months from the independent decision, unless a shorter period is required by the approved profile or a controlling obligation. This is a newly adopted common scheme ceiling, not a duration imposed by the Constitution. AF 9100 cases independently retain Annex AG's 24-month ceiling. Instance results identify the exact occurrence and do not acquire a generic 24-month technical life.

21.2 Surveillance intensity

Standalone programs shall complete surveillance at intervals no longer than 12 months, shortened to six months for high-consequence activities, materially uncertain novel methods or significant competence/integrity exposure identified in the profile. AF 9100 C0/C1 and C2/C3 cases retain their 12- and six-month rules respectively. Mixed scopes follow the shortest triggered interval unless genuinely separate scopes and records justify different treatment. Annex I controls the clocks.

21.3 Content of surveillance

Surveillance shall examine continued capability, implementation, technical witnessing, personnel currency, methods, changes, adverse results, complaints, previous correction, impartiality and claims. For CAB programs, the rolling plan shall cover every authorized distinct method family and route over the ongoing cycle, with high-consequence or new activities examined at each required relevant visit. Limited observation shall not conceal an unexamined scope expansion.

21.4 Renewal and gaps

Begin renewal planning sufficiently early to complete evaluation, corrective action, review and decision before expiry; at least 90 days is recommended, not a guaranteed completion period. Renewal shall reassess the complete current basis rather than rely solely on the old certificate. A decision after expiry begins no earlier than its real date and the gap remains visible. Paying fees, booking a visit or appealing does not extend a period.

21.5 Material changes and notifications

Changes in legal identity, control, sites, key personnel, methods, software, equipment, technical scope, independence, permissions or serious adverse performance shall be assessed for their effect before an expanded or changed claim is used. Planned changes shall be notified early enough for approval. Under these standalone Rules, unplanned non-critical material changes shall be reported within five calendar days of awareness; critical concerns retain the immediate and 24-hour controls. Earlier binding duties prevail.

21.6 No automatic transfer

A new operator, ownership change or site transfer requires review of authority, competence, current scope, original findings, surveillance and evidence continuity. A suspended or unsupported status cannot become valid merely by changing issuer or applicant name. The receiving operator shall conduct additional assessment where needed and disclose the exact transferred or newly granted scope and dates.

22 Protective measures, sanctions and restoration

22.1 Risk-based action and due process

The scheme shall use proportionate measures: correction of claims, added evaluation, restriction, suspension, withdrawal and termination of authorization. Each measure shall identify the rule, evidence, affected scope, authority, effective time and remedy route. A substantiated critical threat warrants immediate protection; ordinary adverse action shall provide notice and a meaningful response opportunity. A commercial disagreement is not by itself evidence of technical incompetence.

22.2 Critical response

The holder shall protect affected work immediately upon recognizing a critical concern and notify its operator within 24 hours after awareness. On a substantiated critical concern, the operator shall suspend or impose an effective evaluated restriction within 24 hours and notify AF when AF authorization is involved. Applicable earlier legal and customer duties remain active. Record the actual scope and uncertainty as information develops, rather than waiting for a final root-cause report.

22.3 Overdue obligations

Missed surveillance, unresolved mandatory scope conditions, expired validity or overdue verified correction shall trigger the appropriate adverse status. A minor or major finding's correction period is not permission for an initial grant. For existing attestations, overdue closure shall lead to suspension or further restriction of the affected scope, unless already suspended or withdrawn. Original clocks shall not be restarted through administrative reissue.

22.4 Suspension resolution

Suspension shall identify the prohibited claim, required corrective evidence and final resolution deadline. Within 90 calendar days from suspension, the operator shall restore on verified evidence, formally restrict to independently demonstrated unaffected scope, or withdraw. There shall be no rolling reset. New credentials and new accredited-scope claims are prohibited in suspended scope. Work required to protect clients or preserve evidence may continue only within a specific controlled permission and without a false active-status claim.

22.5 Restoration and earlier outputs

Restoration requires evidence that causes are resolved, affected earlier outputs have been addressed and competence and conformity are again demonstrated. It does not validate the suspended interval or automatically extend original expiry. Analyze previously issued reports and certificates individually or by justified population; withdrawal of an operator's authorization neither proves every historic result invalid nor guarantees that all remain reliable. Necessary corrections shall reach affected users.

22.6 Misuse and independent review

False claims, misleading marks, concealment of restrictions or impersonation of an authorized operator shall be investigated and corrected through lawful proportionate action. AF shall maintain evidence, notices and reasons and may pursue available contractual or legal remedies. Public warnings shall be accurate and limited to substantiated status and risk information. An allegation alone shall not become a punitive blacklist.

23 Complaints, appeals and independent remedies

23.1 Access and case routing

Any relevant person may raise a complaint or protected concern without being a member or customer. An appeal challenges a notified decision and shall identify that decision and the grounds where practicable. Register actual receipt, safe contact preferences, evidence and urgent protection needs. A case involving several issues may use linked technical, conduct and governance routes without losing the original chronology.

23.2 Timetable

Acknowledge within five calendar days. Provide an initial substantive complaint response within 30 days and normally determine an ordinary complaint or appeal within 60 days of receipt. An appeal is ordinarily submitted within 30 days of decision notification; a justified exceptional late submission may be admitted consistently. Necessary extensions require reasons, a revised date and progress at least every 30 days. Earlier protective, technical or mandatory deadlines are not postponed.

23.3 Independent panel and competence

The Appeals Committee shall allocate three independent competent panel members through its conflict-controlled roster. Original evaluators, reviewers, decision makers and materially implicated persons are excluded and shall not select their own panel. At least one member shall understand the relevant technical scope; additional specialists may advise without replacing the panel's accountability. Insufficient internal independence requires competent external support.

23.4 Fair review and result

The panel shall examine the applicable version, actual evidence, method, independence, reasons and new material information, and provide the parties a meaningful opportunity to respond. It may affirm, set aside, correct within competence, withdraw or remit a decision for further evaluation. It shall distinguish a wrong original conclusion from new circumstances arising later. A successful appeal shall not depend on buying another AF service.

23.5 Continuing status and other remedies

Filing does not automatically lift a protective measure, revive a credential or extend expiry. Interim measures may be changed only on evidence supporting equivalent protection within lawful authority. Corporate appeal is separate from commercial arbitration, which requires valid party consent; it is not an appellate court for an arbitral award. Mandatory court access, reporting and inspection rights remain available.

23.6 Learning and protected records

A substantiated complaint shall prompt review of similarly affected reports, methods, people or cases and verified systemic correction. Reporter and respondent information shall be protected without promising absolute secrecy incompatible with fairness or law. Preserve original evidence, findings, dissent, reasons, status changes and implementation. Publish proportionate corrections when necessary to stop materially false public claims.

24 Verification registry, credentials and mark use

24.1 Decision-linked registry

AF shall maintain or authorize a registry linking every public status to an authentic decision and exact scope. Required fields include ID, issuer, holder, route, criteria, profile version, locations, methods or object configuration, decision and issue dates, expiry or instance boundary, limitations, current state and history. Public fields shall be sufficient to prevent misleading use while sensitive technical and personal evidence remain protected.

24.2 Status transitions and publication

The system shall distinguish applicant, evaluation, review, active, restricted, suspended, expired, refused, withdrawn and historical instance records. Program activation, membership and operator authorization are separate state fields. Update a recorded status decision within two calendar days; notify the holder immediately and enact critical protection sooner where required. A database edit cannot replace the independent decision or conceal a lapsed period.

24.3 Permitted terminology

Use AF Recognised, AF Qualified, AF Accredited, AF Certified or AF Approved only for the specific authorized program and result. An institutional AF logo alone is not a conformity mark. An accredited laboratory shall not place its mark in a way that implies certification of a tested product. An ORG result shall not be placed on a product as proof of PRD approval. An authorized operator shall display scope and restrictions with any claim of delegated authority.

24.4 Digital verification and issuer integrity

Digital credentials may use machine-readable records and signed manifests, but shall identify the responsible human decision and legal issuer. Signature and integrity controls shall support key protection, rotation, revocation, timestamp interpretation, offline verification limitations and migration. A valid file hash proves only that bytes match the reference; it does not prove the underlying evaluation was sound. A public verification interface shall not expose sensitive personal data or allow unrestricted enumeration of protected records.

24.5 Fraud, correction and reuse

The operator shall monitor credible misuse, forged credentials, copied identifiers, expired marks and altered scope schedules. Corrected records shall preserve the earlier state and notify affected parties. QR codes or other machine-readable elements shall resolve to controlled status information where used, not merely a promotional homepage. A contractual mark license shall end or restrict when its status basis ends, with historical lawful use clearly distinguished.

25 Records, information security and controlled technology

25.1 Case dossier and retention

Retain the application, contract, scope/profile, competence and conflicts, plan, raw evidence, witnessing, findings, corrective actions, review, decision, authorization, notices, surveillance and appeals with stable identifiers. Assessment and decision evidence shall remain for at least seven years after the last relevant decision, extended by applicable law, product life, contracts or investigations. Constitutional instruments

and corporate resolutions remain permanent. Separable incidental personal data shall not be retained unnecessarily.

25.2 Custody, access and legitimate disclosure

The responsible custodian shall control access by role, maintain integrity, preserve correction history and provide lawful retrieval for oversight and disputes. Commercial confidentiality shall not prevent the independent scrutiny needed for a decision. Where disclosure is legally restricted, establish authorized local review, redacted extracts or other sufficient lawful arrangements; otherwise hold or limit the claim. Record the evidence actually examined and the unverified limitations.

25.3 Security and continuity

Systems shall protect authentication, access, transfer, backups, restoration, change logs and timely withdrawal of privileges. Critical registry and evidence services shall have tested continuity arrangements and designated deputies. The corporate recovery targets and validation requirements remain under AF-PR-015; these Rules do not claim that present infrastructure already meets them. A recovery shall reconcile missed decisions, notifications and status changes, not simply restart a server.

25.4 Controlled technology and cross-border delivery

Before technical transfer, remote assessment, cloud processing, translation or external specialist access, review applicable parties, destinations, end use, security classification, legal permissions and data obligations. Membership, accreditation or an AF training place is not permission to access controlled technology. Restrictions shall be activity-specific and documented; they shall not be used as a blanket justification to exclude legitimate participants or bypass essential evidence.

25.5 AI-assisted administration

AI may support search, drafting, translation, anomaly detection, scheduling and preliminary evidence analysis under approved controls. The operator shall address provenance, confidentiality, model/version changes, validation, hallucination, bias and human review. No AI system shall approve accreditation, grant a personnel credential, cast a committee vote or be the sole independent decision maker. Do not upload protected evidence to unapproved services.

26 Recognition arrangements, reliance and sector adoption

26.1 Evidence-based recognition of other arrangements

AF may recognize specified competence evidence or conclude bilateral or multilateral arrangements after assessing the counterpart's governance, technical criteria, assessor competence, witnessing, decision independence, surveillance, complaints and registry integrity. Annex M provides the evaluation. A shared name, network membership or reciprocal courtesy shall not establish equivalence.

26.2 Acceptance rather than automatic substitution

A recognition arrangement shall state whether it accepts test reports, surveillance evidence, personnel qualifications, provider competence or particular certificates, and for which profiles and territories. The receiving decision maker shall review relevance, configuration, method, currency, limitations and any missing AF-specific requirement. An external certificate may reduce duplicate evidence gathering only where justified; it cannot waive AF minima or necessary direct witnessing.

26.3 Lawful purchaser and supply-chain adoption

AF may publish model scope language enabling manufacturers, operators and other purchasers to incorporate specified AF requirements into their independent contracts. The specification shall identify route, profile, edition, acceptance evidence and change obligations without claiming universal regulatory necessity. Critical supply-chain requirements shall reach the actual performer under Annex N. AF shall not coordinate prices, market allocation, bids, collective exclusion or compulsory use of a single commercial provider.

26.4 Regional consistency and market access

Regional delivery shall retain the same defined technical baseline, decision safeguards and verifiable status. Local requirements and translation shall be recorded explicitly. An agreement shall not imply acceptance outside the counterpart's real authority. Scope changes, suspension and termination shall trigger notice and review of affected reliance arrangements. Participation counts or geographic marketing claims shall use verified data.

26.5 Measuring adoption

The Council shall monitor actual independent purchasers incorporating the rules, jurisdictions and counterparties with documented acceptance, usable cross-border evidence exchanges, reduced unjustified duplication and user feedback. Targets and prospective discussions shall be separated from executed agreements and outcomes. A claim that the whole sector uses AF rules shall not be made without evidence supporting that precise statement.

27 Emerging technologies and continual assurance

27.1 Technology-neutral innovation pathway

AF shall maintain a controlled route for emerging technologies in aviation, space, defense and advanced industry. Proposals may address autonomy, learning systems, digital twins, quantum-related technology, new propulsion and energy, in-space manufacturing, servicing, planetary mobility and future infrastructures. Innovation does not reduce the requirement to define a real object, operating domain, evidence standard and accountable authority.

27.2 Development, validation and release stages

New methods shall pass the Annex N innovation gates: define the claim and foreseeable consequences; validate the method and evidence pipeline; conduct bounded representative pilot work; independently challenge limitations; complete consultation and normative approval where needed; and authorize limited or full scope only when requirements are met. A development badge or sandbox participant label shall not be marketed as accredited production capability.

27.3 Digital twins and continuous evidence

A digital twin or live data service shall identify its intended use, physical reference, model configuration, validation domain, uncertainty, sensor provenance, drift and change triggers. Continuous monitoring may supplement surveillance but shall not cancel required periodic review, independent witnessing or renewal. The operator shall define the treatment of missing, stale, contradictory or manipulated telemetry and a safe fallback to explicit scope restrictions.

27.4 AI and adaptive systems

An AI-related profile shall define data rights, intended domain, measurable acceptance criteria, independent test data, edge and failure cases, human oversight, cybersecurity, configuration and update rules. Adaptive changes outside the validated boundary require review before continuing the claim. Performance forecasts and benchmark success shall not establish mission safety or global fairness. Decisions shall consider error distributions and consequences, not a single overall accuracy score.

27.5 Space and high-consequence systems

Space, human-rated, defense and heavy-industrial claims shall account for long support periods, remote maintenance, communication delay, environmental extremes, obsolescence, mission changes and recovery limitations. Inaccessible deployed systems may use validated remote evidence only within its actual strength and domain. AF shall not issue a launch, operational or military permission through a technical recognition result.

27.6 Learning and protected evolution

Program reviews shall incorporate incidents, near misses, uncertainty, appeals, technological change and user experience without concealing adverse evidence. Changes to these Rules or a technical profile require the applicable controlled process. New requirements shall not be hidden in software defaults, an assessor checklist or a private interpretation. The frozen AF 9100 files remain unchanged unless a future separately authorized maintenance project is undertaken.

28 Performance, audit and public accountability

28.1 Scheme performance

The operator shall measure scope-specific demand and delivery, assessment and witnessing coverage, competence currency, overdue actions, status accuracy, appeal causes, conflicts, report corrections, accessibility and actual public-benefit outcomes. Denominators, periods, missing data and comparison limits shall be stated. A high acceptance rate or certificate count is not by itself evidence of scheme quality.

28.2 Internal audit and management review

All active scheme processes shall enter a risk-based internal-audit program covering them at least annually. Auditors shall not independently audit their own work. Formal management review shall occur at least annually with quarterly performance and risk review. Include provider performance, method adequacy, impartiality, financial resilience, user feedback, incidents, digital security, unresolved appeals and the effect of new technology.

28.3 Independent scrutiny and transparency

The appropriate elected oversight bodies and independent peer reviewers shall receive access and unedited findings within their mandates. Public reporting shall disclose current schemes and exact available scope, significant limitations, material status corrections and meaningful aggregate results without exposing protected evidence. State whether any claimed external assurance, acceptance or peer evaluation actually occurred and its scope.

28.4 Failure and corrective learning

Systemic problems shall trigger containment, look-back, root-cause analysis, correction and verification of effectiveness across affected operators or profiles. The owner shall examine why errors escaped detection and whether incentives, tools, competence or governance contributed. Closing a single applicant finding does not close an AF oversight failure. Persistent uncorrected scheme deficiencies shall restrict the affected service.

29 Transition, termination and durable institutional control

29.1 Controlled transition

Adoption shall identify existing programs, agreements, holders, cases, rights and documents affected by these Rules. Do not treat every existing result as automatically reapproved or cancelled. Transition measures shall specify the exact new requirement, affected scope, evidence needed, responsible owner, notice and date. Any inconsistency with a controlling standard or legal obligation shall be resolved before the disputed power or claim is exercised.

29.2 Corporate document alignment

Add AF-SR-001 to AF-ML-001 through AF-FR-001 with actual approval and effectivity. Align the affected procedures and forms identified in Annex O. Earlier authentic files remain archived. The older QMS's committee appointment, final technical-ballot and publication wording shall not silently override the later constitutional allocation once operative. This publication does not itself update the Master List workbook or prior files.

29.3 Closure and continuity

Before operator or scheme closure, identify affected holders, contracts, restricted funds, pending decisions, complaints, issued reports, marks and long-life evidence. Assign an authorized custodian and establish lawful transfer or continued access, including clients' ability to verify historical status. A closing operator shall not transfer accreditation, AF permission or private data without the necessary legal and contractual basis.

29.4 Commencement and adoption evidence

Annex P shall record the real legal operator, empowered approving body, exact version, consultation and ballot evidence, competent review, effective date, signature mandates, scope of initial launch and continuing dependencies. Blank templates are intentional record fields, not evidence of an already authorized institution. Legal, technical and operational readiness must all be satisfied before an unrestricted claim is issued.

Annex A — Sector coverage, object routes and scope language

NORMATIVE

This schedule establishes the scope vocabulary for program design and applicant descriptions. Listing a sector permits its consideration; it does not establish AF operating authority, a technically complete profile or a provider's competence. Select every relevant sector and object route, then narrow to the actual task, site, method and configuration.

A-1. Sector coverage and additional evidence

Sector family	Illustrative included activities	Scope evidence to define
Aviation and operations	Civil, commercial, general, business and military aviation; operators, airports, ground handling and navigation services.	Actual service, operating locations and interfaces; responsible operator; mandatory permissions; service outcomes and limitations.
Aircraft and propulsion manufacturing	Aircraft, rotorcraft, engines, structures, avionics, flight controls, equipment, precision parts and integration.	Product and process families; configuration; design and production responsibilities; special processes; qualified ranges and acceptance evidence.
Space systems and ground segment	Satellites, spacecraft, launch-support systems, stations, payloads, ground stations and mission control.	Mission and lifecycle boundary; environmental assumptions; software/hardware versions; test scope; ground/space responsibility interfaces.
Exploration and human spaceflight	Habitats, deep-space research, lunar and planetary systems, surface vehicles, in-space servicing and manufacturing.	Human-safety or mission consequences; model validation; support and recovery limits; operational permission distinguished from technical evidence.
All-domain defense industry	Land platforms, armored and military vehicles, naval and undersea platforms, air and space systems, defense electronics and support.	Industrial task; exact legal entity and performer; authorized information access; controlled transfers; methods and contractual limits.
Heavy industry and special-purpose mobility	Large machinery, structures, marine engineering, launch-site equipment, defense/space-purpose automotive and ground-support vehicles.	Installation, commissioning and maintenance boundaries; energy and structural risks; essential variables; product/site configurations.
Unmanned, autonomous and advanced mobility	Air, ground, maritime and space autonomy; remote operations; advanced air mobility; simulation and supporting infrastructure.	Intended operating domain; human role; failure cases; command/data interfaces; validated methods and change limits.
Materials, energy and enabling technology	Metals, composites, additives, coatings, electronics, batteries, hydrogen, fuel cells, turbine and in-space propulsion.	Material condition and genealogy; processes; method range; sampling; measurement uncertainty; life and storage restrictions.
Digital systems and cybersecurity	Software, AI, hardware, digital twins, data services, connected production, secure updates, critical infrastructure and simulations.	Released versions; data provenance; threat and failure domain; method validation; evidence permissions; recovery and change management.
Supply, maintenance and lifecycle services	All supplier tiers, distribution, storage, logistics, MRO, repair, life extension, obsolescence, recovery and recycling.	Actual performer and sites; supplied scope; traceability; subcontracting; acceptance authority; support and exit responsibilities.
People, education and research	Professionals, examiners, education programs, training providers, research centers and specialist technical networks.	Exact role or program; outcomes; prerequisites; practical evidence; assessment methods; limits of academic or professional claims.

Sector family	Illustrative included activities	Scope evidence to define
Assurance and technical providers	Testing, calibration, inspection, certification, validation, verification and defined specialist assessment services.	Activity-specific technical scope; methods/ranges; sites; personnel; witnessing; independence; actual authorization and issuer.

A.1 Mandatory scope tuple

Each case shall record: program and profile ID/revision; applicant and responsible legal entity; selected object route; evaluated object and configuration; activities and lifecycle responsibilities; physical sites and remote functions; method, range or operating domain; relevant criticality; technical modules; evaluated period; geography where material; exclusions and limitations; operator/issuer; and exact intended public claim. A field may be Not applicable only with a reason. “All aerospace services worldwide” is not an acceptable stand-alone scope.

A-2. Object routes and non-transfer of conclusions

Route	Object and minimum decision boundary	What does not follow automatically
ORG	Defined organizational management and assurance system, sites and activities.	Product approval; personal qualification; CAB accreditation.
PRD	Identified product, configuration, justified family, lot or serial against a technical profile.	Approval of all variants, all future production or statutory use.
SVC	Specified service or event with delivery conditions, outcomes and period.	Approval of the provider's unrelated services.
PRC	Process capability within specified essential variables, location and qualification.	Acceptance of every individual output.
PER	Person's demonstrated role competence under a defined profile.	Employer task authorization or a required professional license.
SUB	Actual supplier/subcontractor and defined supplied work, sites and sub-tier controls.	Unrestricted sourcing approval or release of every supplied item.
CAB	Assessment-body competence for specific activities, methods, locations and limitations.	AF delegated operating permission, public designation or universal report correctness.

A.2 Model narrow scope

Illustrative only: “CAB — dimensional calibration at the named laboratory, for the listed quantities, ranges, methods and demonstrated uncertainty capabilities in Scope Schedule 01, revision 00.” For a space service: “SVC — ground-segment anomaly review and configuration support for the identified satellite service, at the stated sites and observation period, under the specified service profile.” Neither example is a granted AF scope.

Annex B — Authority allocation, independence and case panels

NORMATIVE

These arrangements implement the Constitution's separation of corporate governance, elected technical work and independent case decisions. The panel rule below is a newly authored scheme control; it does not create a new constitutional organ or amend the Council's voting rules.

B-1. Functions, decision authority and exclusions

Function	Responsible authority	Boundary / required record
Create scheme and resource it	Presidential Council within verified powers.	Charter, legal review, resources and activation record; not a favorable applicant decision.
Approve substantive technical text	Responsible elected technical committee; Council authorizes publication.	Consultation, objections, two-thirds substantive participation and support; exact approved version.
Appoint assessment teams	Authorized assignment function.	Verified competence and conflicts; no applicant/sales selection of favorable personnel.
Evaluate applicant	Competent assigned team.	Actual evidence, witnessing, findings and recommendation; no final decision on its own case.
Review dossier	Independent authorized technical reviewer.	Scope, methods, evidence, competence, closure and limitations.
Grant / renew / extend accreditation	Three-person independent Accreditation Decision Panel for the case.	All three participate; at least two affirmative votes; all mandatory gates pass.
Other recognition/conformity decisions	Independent authority identified by charter.	Defined competence; no evaluation or relevant consultancy in the same case.
Execute AF authorization MoU	President or other actual authorized signatory.	Effective competence approval, legal authority, signed agreement and exact scope.
Urgent temporary protection	Authorized duty/decision function under a pre-existing mandate.	Immediate safety action and applicable 24-hour status response; prompt independent review.
Appeal decision	Three-person panel assigned by independent Appeals function.	No original evaluation, review, decision or implicated selector; reasoned remedy.
Public status and marks	Registry and communications functions.	Decision-linked exact scope and effective time; no authority to alter the result.
Oversight and institutional audit	Constitutional oversight bodies and competent independent reviewers.	Unedited findings, adequate access, actions and protected reporting.

B.1 Accreditation Decision Panel

The panel shall contain three authorized people, with collective competence covering the accreditation activity and the relevant sector/methods. At least one shall have direct relevant technical assessment experience; others shall provide competence in decisions, impartiality and scope control. The panel shall exclude the applicant, the assessment team, relevant consultants and materially conflicted people. A separate reviewer may advise; a reviewer may serve as a panel member only if authorized, independent of evaluation and all case conflicts are cleared. No person shall both provide the sole technical evaluation and decide its adequacy.

B.2 Voting and unresolved evidence

All three panel members shall receive the complete dossier and participate in the decision. At least two affirmative votes are required for a proposed disposition; abstention is not assent and there is no casting vote. This vote does not override a substantiated unmet mandatory requirement. Any technical objection identifying such a gap shall be resolved, independently reviewed or lead to hold/refusal before grant, even if two people prefer approval. Record participation, votes, dissent, gate results, reasons and actual time.

B.3 Adverse and emergency decisions

The same competent independent panel shall decide final refusal, withdrawal, material reduction and reinstatement of accreditation, except a purely clerical correction delegated in the charter. Immediate protective suspension or a necessary restriction may be imposed by the authorized duty function under Clause 22, with independent review initiated promptly and the original protection clock retained. A duty officer cannot use urgency to grant accreditation, extend a scope or bypass final closure.

B.4 Independence matrix

For each case record the applicant relationship, recent employment/consultancy, ownership, finance, training, prior evaluation, review, decision and appeal role of every assigned person. "No conflict" without a completed review is insufficient. Evaluation is incompatible with final decision on the same case; original evaluation/review/decision is incompatible with appeal; a materially implicated person cannot select reviewers. Sales influence, pay incentives and shared reporting lines require controls beyond personal declarations.

B.5 Example

Synthetic decision: three panel members participate; two favor grant and one identifies an unperformed mandatory method witness. The outcome is not grant by simple majority. The dossier is held for the missing evidence and competent resolution. When the gap is closed, the panel takes and records a new decision using the complete current record. The original objection and hold remain traceable.

Annex C — Scheme charter, application profile and release gates

NORMATIVE

Complete these schedules for each scheme and technically distinct application profile before formal applications open. They are controlled record content within AF-FR-004 and AF-FR-013 or an equivalent approved system, not an unregistered substitute for those forms.

C-1. Required program and technical profile fields

Field group	Required particulars and acceptance condition
Identity and purpose	Program ID, name, owner, legal operator, objective, public benefit, intended users and relationship to AF's portfolio.
Authority and adoption	Constitution and delegation basis; actual approving body; exact rules version; consultation and approval evidence; actual effectivity.
Object and geography	Recognition/accreditation/authorization/conformity distinction; routes; legal entities; sites; remote functions; actual territory and exclusions.
Criteria and methods	Every requirement mapped to a method and evidence item; quantities/ranges or observable attributes; validation; technical owner; method revision.
Risk and criticality	Consequence analysis; independence; uncertainty; essential failure conditions; novel and restricted activities; any controlling classification.
People and resources	Role profiles, actual competent personnel, workload, facilities, instruments, secure information access, liability and continuity.
Evaluation and witnessing	Stages, activities, representative family grouping, sample population, sites/shifts, witnessing, productive hours and report requirements.
Decision and status	Independent reviewers and decision authority; required gates; exact scope and permissible claims; expiry/instance basis; registration fields.
Continuing control	Surveillance, renewal, special review and change triggers; report and critical notification clocks; suspension and restoration.
Contracts and finance	Application terms, AF authorization where needed, fees/refunds, funding/conflicts, actual signatories, legal/financial review.
Rights, marks and information	Content ownership, data purposes, confidentiality/access, authorized public fields, artwork permission, records, security and redress.
Release and closure	Rehearsal outcomes, unresolved limitations, actual activation decision, participant transition, provider failure and archive custodian.

C.1 Mandatory release gates

Each of the following shall be marked Pass, Fail or Not applicable with a documented reason: authority verified; normative process complete; criteria technically adequate; competent independent people assigned; adequate resources; legal access and necessary permissions; methods and tools validated; witnessing feasible; complete decision/appeal arrangements; contracts and mark controls ready; accurate registry and secure records; continuity tested; conflicts controlled; and end-to-end rehearsal completed. Any applicable Fail blocks the corresponding live scope. A commercial deadline is not an override.

C.2 Profile changes

A profile revision shall identify affected criteria, reason, technical validation, users and cases, consultation need, required approvals, transition and effective time. Changing a test limit or practical passing step is a substantive change, not an editorial correction. A profile may not waive a controlling AF 9100 minimum. If an essential parameter is unknown, retain the proposed scope in development; do not publish a placeholder as a valid assessment criterion.

C.3 Real readiness record

Record the actual reviewer for each gate, the evidence location, date, unresolved action, owner, due date and scope restriction. A completed synthetic example confirms only the rehearsal outcome. The final activation entry shall state the exact program, approved profiles, permitted outputs, legal operator, authorized signatory and true commencement. It shall also specify any activity that remains unavailable.

Annex D — Recognition and qualification assessment criteria

NORMATIVE

Apply all common criteria to the proposed recognition scope, with a justified activity-specific treatment. Use the additional route requirements where triggered. The criteria below are newly authored AF common rules extending the existing recognition procedure; they are not claims that an applicant has already met them. A CAB competence claim shall use accreditation rather than substitute this table.

D-1. Common recognition criteria

ID / criterion	Minimum demonstration	Evidence / blocker
RC01 Identity and responsibility	Authenticated legal or personal identity; authority to apply; accountable owner of the recognized activity.	Identity and delegation records; false identity blocks admission.
RC02 Exact scope	Defined capability, sites, activities, period, exclusions and customer/public claim.	Approved scope/profile; vague all-sector claims are held.
RC03 Lawful operation	Applicable obligations and actual permissions identified for the work.	Obligation review and permission evidence; missing necessary authority blocks affected scope.
RC04 Implemented governance	Assigned roles, decisions, resources and operational controls appropriate to the capability.	Actual role and decision records; organizational chart alone insufficient.
RC05 Competent people	Verified knowledge, practice and task performance; current authorizations.	Role dossiers, observed tasks, reassessment; honorary titles not competence.
RC06 Resources and continuity	Suitable facilities/tools, information, capacity, support and recovery arrangements.	Availability and suitability evidence; unavailable essential resource blocks claim.
RC07 Delivery integrity	Actual representative work meets the published capability criteria.	Complete delivery trail and observed execution; a future plan does not count as delivered work.
RC08 Technical control	Current methods, criteria, configuration, change and acceptance responsibilities.	Controlled instructions, validation where needed, results and approvals.
RC09 Suppliers and subcontractors	Actual performer identified; relevant requirements reach every critical tier.	Contracts, scope verification, performer records and change controls.
RC10 Risks and protection	Consequences and critical interfaces reviewed; protective action and escalation are usable.	Risk/hold records and demonstration; unresolved unacceptable risk blocks grant.
RC11 Ethical and impartial claims	Truthful records, relevant conflicts, no bought outcomes or unsupported authority statements.	Declarations and verified claims; material falsification triggers protection.
RC12 Information and records	Necessary evidence authentic, retrievable and securely retained with lawful access.	Case manifest, version history and retrieval test; absent decisive evidence blocks conclusion.
RC13 Feedback and remedies	Complaints, errors and nonconforming work handled fairly and effectively.	Cases, response, corrections, verified cause and recurrence controls.
RC14 Self-evaluation and improvement	Relevant internal evaluation and management review demonstrate actual oversight.	Real reviews and actions; purely unsigned templates insufficient.

ID / criterion	Minimum demonstration	Evidence / blocker
RC15 Continuing obligations	Agreed surveillance, change reporting, renewal, mark restrictions and exit cooperation.	Signed terms and calendar; refusal of required oversight blocks ongoing recognition.
RC16 Independent conclusion	Complete scope and findings independently reviewed and decided.	Closed in-scope nonconformities; competent decision and exact published scope.

D-2. Additional route evidence

Capability	Additional mandatory demonstration	Permitted boundary
Organization / industrial capability	Implemented lifecycle processes, representative delivered work, relevant technical resources and traceable supplier controls.	Specified organization/activity; not product certification.
Supplier / subcontractor qualification	Actual site and performer, qualified work packages, sub-tier visibility, process/acceptance records and escape response.	Named supply scope; not blanket release of output.
Education / training program	Learning outcomes, qualified instructors, secured materials, valid assessments, accessibility and learner remedy arrangements.	Named course/program and assessed delivery; no assumed academic degree or occupational license.
Research or technical center	Approved protocol, competent investigators, facilities, ethics/permissions, data rights, reproducibility and adverse-result handling.	Defined research capability; no blanket truth warranty for all findings.
Service capability	Observed actual delivery, defined outcomes, responsibility interfaces, continuity and correction of service failures.	Named service and conditions, not every corporate offering.
Process / professional qualification	Validated essential variables or role/task profile, practical demonstration, limits, change triggers and independent decision.	Exact process/role. AF 9100 PRC/PER requirements govern when selected.

D.1 Evidence and outcome

The evaluation record shall show requirement, evidence, finding, correction and final disposition for each applicable criterion. Non-applicability requires a scope-based justification, not missing evidence. Observations may guide improvement but cannot create unannounced pass criteria. The final decision shall state grant, refusal or an independently justified narrowed scope. Any development support shall use a separate non-conformity-status label.

Annex E — Accreditation criteria and witnessing schedule

NORMATIVE

Apply the common CAB requirements and every relevant activity module. These criteria are a complete common scheme schedule but do not replace application-specific technical limits, methods and competent profile development. A body shall not claim a module until it has been assessed and expressly included in its scope.

E-1. Common CAB accreditation controls

ID	Required control	Verification
AC01	Legal entity, ownership, liability and authority for each offered activity.	Authenticate records; trace responsible issuer and contract.
AC02	Actual scope by object, methods, ranges, sites, conditions and exclusions.	Compare advertised services, application and demonstrable capability.
AC03	Governance and real impartiality; related activity and financial-risk control.	Review influence, consulting, referrals, staffing, oversight and case recusals.
AC04	Sufficient qualified people and independent review/decision capacity.	Examine current dossiers and witness actual assigned performance.
AC05	Suitable facilities, equipment, software and controlled environment.	Witness work; check calibration, access, validation and maintenance.
AC06	Contract review, sample/population scope and method selection.	Trace acceptance to requirement, capability and recorded criteria.
AC07	Validated or verified methods and meaningful uncertainty/decision treatment.	Challenge method limits, bias, raw data, calculations and false-decision risks.
AC08	Authentic records, configuration, confidentiality, security and access.	Trace source-to-report; retrieve originals; test controlled changes.
AC09	Competent outsourced work without loss of final issuer responsibility.	Verify performer, approved scope, contract, raw evidence and oversight.
AC10	Independent result review, decision and exact report/credential.	Trace a completed case and an adverse or amended case where available.
AC11	Continuing validity monitoring, proficiency or justified equivalent evidence.	Review performance outcomes, not participation alone; examine corrective look-back.
AC12	Surveillance, scope change, renewal, restriction and accurate status.	Check real dates, completed coverage, prior versions and public claims.
AC13	Accessible complaints, independent appeals and protected reporting.	Examine selection conflicts, fair response, reasons and remedial actions.
AC14	Internal audit, management review and effective correction.	Test implemented controls and recurrent failures; no self-audit of own work.
AC15	Financial resilience, liability arrangements and orderly closure.	Review continuity, commitments, funds, client records and custodianship.
AC16	Valid authorization and permitted marks.	Check approval, signed authorization MoU where required, scope and current status.

E-2. Activity modules and minimum witness

Module	Required technical demonstration	Witnessed trace and scope output
LAB-T: Testing	Suitable method; sample identity/condition; preparation; environment; controlled equipment; raw data; calculation; validity monitoring; uncertainty/decision rule where relevant.	Observe representative actual method execution for each distinct family. Scope states object/property, methods, conditions and sites.
LAB-C: Calibration	Quantity and range; traceability chain; method verification; corrections; uncertainty budget; environment; reference stability; reporting.	Observe representative calibrations and uncertainty calculation. Scope includes demonstrated uncertainty capability and limitations.
INS: Inspection	Defect mechanisms, inspection method, access, qualifications, equipment, independence and objective reporting.	Observe representative inspection or valid controlled task; challenge inaccessible features and reporting of limitations.
CERT-ORG: Organizational certification	Team competence, initial stages, actual time, scope, criticality, sites/shifts, samples, findings, review and independent decision.	Witness representative audit and full application-to-status case; state sectors, routes and consequence limits.
CERT-OBJ: Product/service/process certification	Approved technical profile, representation, test/observation, production or delivery controls and change/surveillance.	Observe technical evaluation, review and decision; state object families, profiles, methods and continuing boundary.
CERT-PER: Personnel certification	Job analysis, eligibility, identity, knowledge and practical assessment, secure questions, independent scoring/decision, continued competence.	Witness representative examination and practical task plus credential decision; state exact role/profile and methods.
VAL-VER: Validation / verification	Claim boundary, historical/prospective distinction, materiality, uncertainty, model/data validity, evidence and independent conclusion.	Trace a representative claim, contrary evidence, review and statement; state subject, assurance conditions and limitations.

E.1 Grouping and difficult scopes

Group methods only when shared principles, equipment, personnel competence and technical risks support meaningful representation. Document both included variants and important differences. The highest-consequence and limiting conditions shall be examined. A broad common department, identical report template or low case volume is not enough. If no competent witness can lawfully assess an essential family, exclude or hold it rather than claim complete accreditation.

E.2 Initial, surveillance and renewal coverage

At initial accreditation and renewal, evaluate every operating site and witness each distinct family or route under justified grouping. During surveillance, review the central controls and current method/personnel changes; prioritize critical, new, failed or infrequently exercised functions. Plan coverage of all distinct authorized families across the ongoing cycle. AF 9100 high-criticality and other applicable stronger requirements remain controlling. The plan records task, assessor, actual observation, limitation and next coverage date.

E.3 Proficiency outcome handling

For an adverse proficiency/comparison result, determine whether method, instrument, sample, personnel, environmental or statistical factors contributed. Verify correction and assess all potentially affected earlier results. A convenient passing rerun cannot erase the earlier result. If evidence does not establish continuing competence, restrict or suspend the affected method. A comparison statistic is an indicator within its validated program and not a universal standalone accreditation pass criterion.

Annex F — Personnel competence and authorization matrix

NORMATIVE

For AF 9100 cases, its Annex AB and, where applicable, Annex AE are controlling. The table faithfully carries the principal entry and maintenance minima for convenient administration. For corresponding standalone independent audit roles, these Rules adopt the same minimum baseline as a newly authored extension; non-audit specialists additionally require a technically suitable role profile. Completion of numerical minima alone never proves competence.

F-1. Entry and demonstration requirements

Role	Minimum evidence	Limit
Internal auditor	Task-relevant experience; 16 hours of AF/process-audit learning; one complete witnessed internal audit and satisfactory evidence-based report.	Independent of own work; not automatically qualified for third-party assessment.
Third-party auditor	Three years relevant professional experience, including two in quality/assurance/intended technical domain; 40 hours AF audit training; knowledge $\geq 80\%$; practical $\geq 85\%$; all essential steps; four mentored complete audits totaling ≥ 20 auditor-days.	Independent assignment only after witnessed approval for defined route/sector.
Lead auditor	Qualified third-party auditor plus three complete audits led under supervision totaling ≥ 10 auditor-days; demonstrated planning, team direction, conflicts and integrated reporting.	Lead only within authorized scope; actively participating experts fill technical gaps.
Technical expert / specialist assessor	Three years relevant technical practice, normally including two within the preceding five; verified task demonstration and AF orientation. Non-audit assessor additionally demonstrates the module's assessment skills.	Expertise alone does not authorize independent audit leadership or final decisions.
Technical reviewer	Demonstrated AF and evidence-review competence; technical coverage; five satisfactory mentored complete file reviews.	Independent of evaluated work; may combine review/decision only when separately authorized.
Decision maker	Verified routes, scope, decision rules, impartiality, status and appeal knowledge; five satisfactory mentored complete decisions; access to required expertise.	No decision on own evaluation or relevant consultancy.
Application reviewer	Demonstrated scope, criterion, resource and authority review competence; satisfactory observed performance.	Does not grant competence or outcome through admission.
Appeal reviewer	Demonstrated fair case analysis, AF rules and relevant technical understanding; observed satisfactory performance.	No original evaluation, review or decision; no materially implicated selector.

F.1 Initial population and equivalence

Comparable previous audit or technical work may meet experience requirements only when identity, role, dates, duration, scope and performance are verified and each criterion is mapped. It does not waive the AF knowledge assessment, witnessed practical demonstration, impartiality or essential competence requirements. For initial AF assessor development, use at least two independent competent professionals to evaluate each candidate and retain their own competence and conflict records. Do not count unverifiable logs or approve candidates reciprocally.

F-2. Continuing authorization and reactivation

Role/control	Required minimum or trigger	Consequence
All authorized assessment roles	At least 16 hours relevant continuing professional development in each 12 months.	Document learning and actual effect on competence, not attendance alone.
Independent auditors	At least four auditor-days across two assignments each 12 months.	If unmet, suspend independent role until review and supervised reactivation.
Lead auditors	Lead at least two complete assignments in each 24 months.	Maintain demonstrated leadership within current scope.
Reviewers / decision makers	At least three substantive reviews or decisions in each 12 months for the applicable role.	Review competence and reactivate under supervision when minimum is unmet.
Witnessed audit performance	At least once every 24 months; sooner for new scope, C2/C3 expansion or adverse evidence.	Observed performance required; CPD does not substitute.
Audit inactivity	More than 12 months without relevant audit practice.	Updated AF learning and satisfactory witnessed assignment before independent resumption.
PER credentials using AF 9100	Knowledge ≥80%; practical ≥85%; every essential step; at least 40 scored knowledge items or approved equivalent constructed-response assessment.	Independent decision; no averaging of mandatory components.
PER continuation using AF 9100	16 hours CPD per 12 months; practice per profile; practical essential-skill demonstration within six months before renewal plus knowledge update.	Credential maximum 24 months; surveillance follows assessed criticality.
Task inactivity using AF 9100	More than six months for C2/C3 tasks or 12 months for C0/C1.	Observed competence demonstration before independent task authorization resumes.
Employer authorization	Review no later than 12 months and earlier after material change.	Separate from credential and statutory licensing; new employer makes its own task authorization.

F.2 Assignment record

Record person ID, authorized role, route, sector/method, criticality, language, prerequisite evidence, current status, last required practice/witness, learning, conflicts, permitted information access, supervision and exact case tasks. An essential competence or integrity failure blocks authorization irrespective of examination total. The learning and experience evidence may remain confidential but shall be accessible to the legitimate competence reviewer.

F.3 Competence decision example

Synthetic case: knowledge 88%, practical 91%, but the candidate fails the predefined essential step to protect an unresolved high-consequence result. The decision is Fail for the requested role, not 89.5% and Pass. After remediation, an equivalent direct practical reassessment must demonstrate that step and every other applicable requirement. Preserve all attempts and the separate final authorization.

Annex G — Audit resources, witnessing coverage and checked calculations

NORMATIVE CONTROLS; WORKED EXAMPLES ARE INFORMATIVE

A resource model establishes a minimum or a planning rationale, not proof that a particular duration is sufficient. Technical coverage and necessary extra time always remain mandatory. The AF 9100 organizational calculation below is inherited from Annex AC; standalone CAB work instead requires an activity-based plan. Do not apply an organizational formula to every assessment object.

G-1. AF 9100 organizational base evaluation time

Effective people N	Base B, auditor-days
1–10	2.0
11–25	3.0
26–75	4.0
76–150	5.0
151–300	7.0
301–600	9.0
Above 600	$9 + \text{ceil}((N - 600)/300)$

G.1 Inputs and formula

Effective personnel include relevant employees and external workers, documented part-time equivalents and each unique critical role counted as at least one. Round N upward to a whole person, minimum one. Criticality K is $C0=1.00$, $C1=1.15$, $C2=1.35$ or $C3=1.60$. Add 0.15 to f once for each triggered special-process, assured software/AI/digital acceptance, and materially novel-technology factor. Let Sv be visited sites (minimum one for calculation) and H additional materially different shifts. One auditor-day is eight productive evaluation hours.

Equation G-1: $T_{\text{calc}} = \text{ceil}(2 \times [B \times K \times (1 + f) + 0.5(S_v - 1) + 0.5H]) / 2$.

Equation G-2: $T \geq \max(T_{\text{calc}}, S_v)$; $T_1 \geq \max(0.5, \text{ceil}(2 \times 0.25T)/2)$; $T_2 = T - T_1 \geq 1.5$. Increase total T where stage, central-function or technical coverage requires it.

Equation G-3: Surveillance $\geq \max(1, \text{ceil}(2 \times 0.5T)/2)$; renewal $\geq \max(2, \text{ceil}(2 \times 0.75T)/2)$, with all additional site and critical-control floors satisfied.

G.2 Checked inherited example

For $N=80$, $C2$, two complexity triggers, one site and no additional shift, $B=5$, $K=1.35$ and $f=0.30$. The unrounded result is 8.775 auditor-days, rounded upward to $T=9.0$. $T_1=2.5$ and $T_2=6.5$. Surveillance is at least 4.5 and renewal at least 7.0 auditor-days. Travel, meals, commercial administration, reporting, translation delays, independent review and decision time do not count as productive evaluation. The real plan may require more.

G.3 Organizational surveillance sampling only

For an eligible homogeneous AF 9100 $C0/C1$ surveillance pool of S sites, $m=\max(\text{ceil}(\sqrt{S}), \text{ceil}(S/2))$. Add the central function and all mandatory critical, unique, new or otherwise ineligible sites. Rotate to cover the eligible pool within 24 months and select at least $\text{ceil}(m/4)$ randomly. At $S=9$, $m=5$ and at least two of the five are random. Initial and renewal organizational coverage includes every physical site. This is a coverage convention, not a statistical confidence statement and not a CAB method-family sampling formula.

G-2. Standalone CAB activity-based plan — synthetic example

Work item	Productive hours	Basis / separate resources
Readiness and scope review	8	One defined operator, site and requested activity set.
Common governance and implementation evaluation	12	Contracts, personnel, impartiality, records, audit and corrective action.
Three distinct method-family witnesses	18	Six hours each based on the selected tasks; actual need may exceed this.
End-to-end technical case traces	6	Original evidence, adverse records, reports and decision route.
Technical evaluation subtotal	44	5.5 evaluator-days at eight hours, before any added required work.
Report preparation	6 additional	Not included in the 44 productive evaluation hours.
Independent review	6 additional	Separate competent resources, not evaluation time.
Panel decision	3 additional person-hours	Collective actual work; not three hours of calendar meeting multiplied without basis.
Travel and logistics	Record separately	Do not reduce any technical task or add as evaluation.

G.4 CAB plan acceptance

The lead and independent technical reviewer shall accept the work breakdown before evaluation. Record each family, actual task, necessary expertise, setup and observation time, data review, sites, operating constraints and possible repeat work. Grouping requires technical similarity and shall not omit a material method. The example's 44 hours are not a scheme minimum or guarantee for any real laboratory. The approved plan may increase but shall not omit necessary work to meet a commercial quote.

G.5 Optional detection-planning calculation

For independent random observations, if each has a true issue probability p and the desired probability of observing at least one issue is C , $n = \text{ceil}(\ln(1-C)/\ln(1-p))$. With $p=0.10$ and $C=0.95$, $n=29$ and the detection probability is $1-0.9^{29} \approx 95.29\%$. Dependence, changing issue rates, finite populations or judgmental selection require a different justified model. The result does not mean that the organization is 95% conforming or that an accepted lot has a 95% chance of conformity.

G.6 Review and record

Keep exact inputs and formula version, units, rounding, approved additions, actual productive time and differences from plan. Validate tools with boundary and invalid-input tests and independently check decisions. Arithmetic verification proves only that the encoded example calculations match their specified rules; it does not validate empirical sufficiency, field implementation or international acceptance.

Annex H — Decision and finding disposition matrices

NORMATIVE

The following matrices operationalize the inherited all-requirements decision rule. They are not weighted scoring systems. For AF 9100 cases, Annex AD remains controlling; these Rules apply the same protective logic to standalone scheme decisions.

H-1. Decision state and required result

Situation	Required treatment	Can grant / renew / extend?
Scope or criterion not adequately defined	Hold for competent profile definition; restrict development claims.	No, for undefined scope.
Required evidence inaccessible or missing	Seek lawful sufficient access or additional evidence; identify limitations.	No, where mandatory criterion is unsubstantiated.
Critical finding or unacceptable unresolved risk	Immediate protection and applicable 24-hour status action.	No, in affected scope.
Major nonconformity	Contain, assess extent and current capability; verified closure within 60 days from notification.	No until all in-scope failures closed.
Minor nonconformity at initial/renewal/extension	Correct, address cause and verify closure; 90-day limit does not permit early certification.	No with an open minor in granted scope.
Localized minor during existing surveillance	Continue only after documented adequate containment/correction, cause/extent review, accepted plan and preserved essential controls.	Maintain existing status only on the bounded justified basis.
Existing major compromising ongoing conformity	Suspend affected status; separately demonstrated unaffected scope may be restricted.	No continuation merely because a plan is promised.
Observation / improvement only	Explain opportunity without inventing an unmet requirement.	May proceed if every mandatory gate passes.
Profile legitimately excludes an unrelated activity	Record exclusion and prove remaining scope unaffected.	Yes for the independently evaluated actual scope.
Expired or missed surveillance	Expire or suspend as appropriate; complete new review and real decision.	No automatic extension or backdating.
Appeal filed	Preserve current protective state; independent review proceeds.	No automatic reinstatement, validity extension or scope addition.

H.1 Logical gate

Positive grant = valid scope AND all applicable criteria fulfilled AND evidence adequate AND all in-scope nonconformities closed AND competent independent decision authorized AND any required written operating/mark authorization effective. A product release under a lawful concession is a different decision and shall retain its actual departure. A scope reduction may not conceal a systemic failure of the retained scope.

H.2 Full-interval measurement rule

For inclusive limits $[L, H]$, corrected result y and justified symmetric expanded uncertainty U , DR-A demonstrates conformity when $y - U \geq L$ and $y + U \leq H$; demonstrates nonconformity under that rule when $y + U < L$ or $y - U > H$; otherwise the result is indeterminate. Equality lies inside the limit. Asymmetric uncertainty uses actual endpoints. The conclusion is conditional on the measurement model and

coverage, not an absolute guarantee. AF 9100 Annex AD controls when an alternative rule is permitted and which independent approvals it requires.

H-2. Measurement example – informative

L / H, mm	y, mm	U, mm	DR-A result
49.970 / 50.030	50.024	0.004	Conformity demonstrated: [50.020,50.028] inside.
49.970 / 50.030	50.028	0.004	Indeterminate: upper endpoint 50.032 overlaps limit.
49.970 / 50.030	50.036	0.004	Nonconformity demonstrated: lower endpoint 50.032 above limit.
49.970 / 50.030	50.026	0.004	Conformity demonstrated: upper endpoint equals inclusive limit.

H.3 Finding record

Use requirement ID and version; observed objective evidence; exact gap; affected object/site/period; classification and rationale; immediate action; notification timestamp; action-plan and closure deadlines; cause and extent; proposed correction; verifier and independence; evidence of effectiveness; current status and related earlier outputs. Record a justified challenge without erasing the original finding. Administrative category changes shall not conceal the original facts or restart the protective clock.

H.4 Independent decision record

Record the complete dossier version, competence/conflicts, method and coverage, every gate, unresolved technical objection and its resolution, exact proposed scope, actual authority, panel participation where required, votes, reasons, decision and issue dates, expiry or instance boundary, restrictions, applicant notice and public-status instruction. An absence of a signature is not evidence of consent, and a populated form is not itself proof that its stated evidence exists.

Annex I — Controlling timetable and ongoing status

NORMATIVE

AF 9100 cases retain its Annex AG without amendment. The entries labelled Standalone adoption are new common controls for programs adopting AF-SR-001. Earlier applicable legal, safety, contractual or technical duties prevail; a longer generic administrative target does not postpone them. Calculate each deadline from its exact recorded trigger and keep the original time history.

I-1. Time, trigger and action

Control	Interval / trigger	Basis / consequence
Ongoing ORG/PRD-family/SVC/PRC/PER/SU B/CAB attestation using AF 9100	Maximum 24 months from conformity decision.	AF 9100 AG.1. Complete renewal before expiry; no automatic extension.
Standalone recognition / qualification / accreditation	Maximum 24 months from independent decision; shorter profile allowed.	Standalone adoption in Clause 21.1; not a constitutional cycle.
Instance result	Exact lot, serial, test, service event or evaluated occurrence.	AF 9100 AG.2 and these Rules. No general continuing permission or automatic two-year technical life.
AF 9100 C0/C1 surveillance	Completed within 12 months of decision / last completed surveillance.	AF 9100 AG.1–AG.3. Missed completion triggers affected suspension.
AF 9100 C2/C3 surveillance	Completed within six months of decision / last completed surveillance.	AF 9100 AG.1–AG.3; relevant critical-control sites included.
Standalone surveillance	Maximum 12 months; six for high-consequence/novel or significant competence/integrity exposure.	Standalone adoption, Clause 21.2. Mixed scope uses shortest triggered interval unless genuinely separated.
Corrective-action plan	Within 30 days after finding notification.	AF 9100 AG.1 and standalone adoption. Not permission to certify with open findings.
Major verified closure	Within 60 days after finding notification.	Continuing conformity reviewed immediately; no presumption of active status.
Minor verified closure	Within 90 days after finding notification.	Existing minor continuation only under documented Clause 18.5 conditions.
Critical protection	Immediately upon recognizing the concern.	Stop or contain; do not wait for reporting or approval meetings.
Holder's critical notification	Within 24 hours of awareness.	Notify operator; earlier required customer/authority notices remain.
Operator critical status action	Within 24 hours on a substantiated critical concern.	Suspend or effective evaluated restriction; notify AF when authorization involved.
Registry update	Within two calendar days after status decision.	Holder notified immediately; public record matches exact affected scope.
Suspension resolution	Maximum 90 days from suspension decision.	Restore on evidence, restrict independently unaffected scope or withdraw. No rolling reset.
Final evaluation report	Within 14 days of evaluation closure.	Exceptional delay communicated; protection and finding clocks unaffected.

Control	Interval / trigger	Basis / consequence
Unplanned non-critical material change	Notify within five days after awareness.	Standalone adoption, Clause 21.5. Expanded claim still requires approval before use.
Planned material change	Before implementation/claim, early enough for required review.	No fixed grace period authorizes unassessed scope.
Renewal initiation	At least 90 days before expiry recommended.	Planning guidance only; does not guarantee decision or extend validity.
Complaint/appeal acknowledgment	Within five days of receipt.	Constitution Article 24; AF 9100 AG/AI.
Initial substantive complaint response	Within 30 days of receipt.	Constitution Article 24.1.
Appeal submission	Normally within 30 days of notified decision.	Documented good cause may justify late admission; mandatory rights preserved.
Ordinary complaint/appeal determination	Normally within 60 days of receipt.	Necessary extension gives reasons, revised date and progress at least every 30 days.
Independent accrediting-operator review	Before launch; then no more than 36 months and earlier if warranted.	New institutional control, Clause 11; does not change holder cycles.
Scheme audit / management review	At least annually; performance and risk review quarterly.	Constitution Article 28 and QMS.
Rule/profile suitability review	At least every three years and earlier when evidence warrants.	Constitution Article 17 and these Rules.
Substantive public consultation	At least 60 calendar days before final normative approval.	Constitution Article 17. No fabricated retrospective consultation.

I.1 Date arithmetic and notification

Record actual decision, issue, awareness, notification, evaluation completion and expiry separately. For month-based dates, use the corresponding calendar date or month-end. Example: a six-month deadline from 31 August 2026 falls on 28 February 2027. A two-day registry deadline from a decision on 29 September 2026 falls on 1 October 2026 under the stated calendar-day basis. Define an exact time/zone where material; earlier protective duties may act immediately. Do not assume weekends stop a calendar-day clock.

I.2 Renewal and restoration example

Synthetic ongoing decision on 29 September 2026 has a maximum 24-month expiry on 29 September 2028. C2/C3 first surveillance is due no later than 29 March 2027. A suspension on 10 January 2027 requires resolution no later than 10 April 2027 under a 90-calendar-day calculation. Restoration without a complete renewal preserves the original expiry and does not validate the suspended interval. An outstanding appeal does not suspend these clocks.

I.3 Missed deadlines

The owner shall flag an approaching deadline and escalate before it is missed. If already missed, record the actual failure, impose required status measures, assess affected users and implement the lawful remedy. Do not alter a receipt timestamp, substitute a booking date for completed assessment or recreate a missing decision. A justified appeal extension is separate from an extension of credential validity, which is not automatic.

Annex J — Cooperation and Authorization MoU — complete model terms

NORMATIVE REQUIRED TERM STRUCTURE; UNEXECUTED MODEL

This model implements AF-CON-001 Article 18. It must be completed for the verified legal entities, actual powers and jurisdiction before signature. The parties' intended binding obligations are set out below; blank particulars in the schedules are not presumed agreed. Legal review shall confirm enforceability, liability, data-transfer and dispute terms. Ordinary partnership and membership documents shall not be substituted for this authorization.

J.1 Parties, purpose and binding character

The verified AF contracting entity ("AF") and the verified provider entity ("Operator"), identified in Schedule J-A, agree that this instrument creates binding obligations for the authorized activities expressly listed in Schedule J-B. It supports the independent delivery and oversight of the identified AF scheme. No authority arises until the recorded competence decision, AF written approval, signed agreement, scope schedule and stated conditions are all effective.

J.2 Defined delegation and exclusions

AF authorizes only the activities, object routes, sectors, methods, locations, territories, technical profiles, restrictions and marks listed in Schedule J-B. The Operator shall not claim general governmental approval, exclusive sector jurisdiction, broader accreditation, representation of a government or an unlimited agency. No onward delegation, sublicensing, exclusivity or use of AF marks is implied. A substantive change requires prior written evaluation and approval under the applicable scheme.

J.3 Applicable instruments

The Operator shall comply with the exact adopted editions listed in Schedule J-B, these Rules, applicable technical profiles and mandatory legal obligations. AF 9100:2026 applies only to the stated scheme scopes and is not amended by this agreement. Conflicts shall be notified and addressed under the governing hierarchy; the affected action shall be held where necessary. Later scheme amendments apply through their valid notice and transition conditions, not an unrecorded website change.

J.4 Competence and resourcing

The Operator shall maintain verified personnel and independent decision capacity, suitable methods and facilities, lawful information access, financial continuity and appropriate liability arrangements. It shall keep current scope and competence records and notify AF of material changes. It shall decline or restrict work that exceeds demonstrated competence. AF may require justified witnessing, reevaluation or corrective action within the agreed access and confidentiality conditions.

J.5 Impartiality and non-interference

The parties shall separate scheme ownership, evaluation, technical review, decisions, consultancy, training and sales as required. Neither party shall direct a favorable or adverse technical result for commercial or personal reasons. Personnel shall disclose conflicts and comply with the applicable 24-month exclusion and additional relationship review. Outcome-linked compensation, bought credentials, undisclosed referral incentives and suppression of material evidence are prohibited.

J.6 Evaluation and final responsibility

The Operator shall perform the agreed methods, cover the required sites and method families, preserve adverse evidence, verify correction, obtain independent review and issue only authorized decisions. The Operator remains responsible for its contracted work and final decisions. A subcontractor may perform a permitted technical task only after documented competence, confidentiality and scope review. Final decision responsibility and AF operating authority may not be sold or automatically transferred.

J.7 Access, witnessing and audit

The Operator shall provide AF's duly authorized competent reviewers with the access reasonably necessary to oversee the delegated activity, including relevant sites, personnel, cases, methods, complaints, records and witnessed execution. Access shall respect law, protected information and client rights. Authorized alternative arrangements may be used only when they provide sufficient evidence. If essential lawful access cannot be obtained, the affected scope shall be held, restricted or withdrawn rather than presumed satisfactory.

J.8 Reports, credentials and registry

The Operator shall use approved report and credential content, maintain exact scope and status, and make required registry updates within the controlling timetable. Every report shall identify its actual issuer and independent decision where required. Current, restricted, suspended, expired and withdrawn states shall be distinguishable. The Operator shall promptly correct inaccurate statements and cooperate in tracing affected earlier outputs. AF's logo alone does not establish a technical mark license.

J.9 Notifications and protective action

The Operator shall maintain named contacts and deputies for urgent concerns. It shall protect affected activities immediately, comply with applicable 24-hour critical notifications/status actions and notify AF as required by the authorization. Non-critical material changes shall follow the agreed scheme timetable; planned changes require review before use of a changed claim. Necessary legal or customer reporting shall not be delayed for AF commercial approval.

J.10 Fees, charges and financial conduct

Only the amounts, currency, tax basis, chargeable activities, travel rules, payment dates, refund/cancellation conditions and any mark/license fees listed in Schedule J-C are agreed. No payment purchases a favorable assessment, governance vote or guaranteed referral. Changes require the agreed notice and authorization. Each party remains responsible for its taxes and obligations as law requires. Bank instruction changes shall be independently verified.

J.11 Intellectual property and permitted marks

Each party retains its pre-existing rights unless an express written license states otherwise. AF grants only the limited non-transferable mark and document-use rights specified in Schedule J-B for active authorized scope. The Operator shall preserve artwork and wording, prevent misleading product endorsement and cease affected current claims immediately after suspension or termination. The parties shall identify rights to technical contributions, software, reports and derived data before use.

J.12 Confidentiality, data and controlled transfers

The parties shall protect confidential, personal, security-sensitive and controlled information and use it only for the stated lawful purposes. Schedule J-D shall identify roles, allowed data categories, recipients, locations, subprocessors, security, incident notifications, rights handling, retention, return and deletion. No absolute secrecy term shall obstruct mandatory reporting, competent oversight or fair proceedings. Unapproved external AI processing is prohibited. A signature on this agreement is not an export or classified-access permission.

J.13 Records and continuity

The Operator shall preserve the applicable assessment and decision evidence, history and required retention, provide lawful retrieval, test recovery and maintain a closure/transfer plan. Critical records shall not depend on a single individual's private account. At suspension or termination, records and accurate public status shall remain available under the agreed lawful custody arrangement. Transfer of records shall not by itself transfer an accreditation or appointment.

J.14 Complaints, appeals and cooperation

The Operator shall provide accessible complaints and independent appeals, keep protected records and implement reasoned remedies. Original evaluators, reviewers and decision makers shall not decide the same appeal. The Operator shall cooperate with AF oversight without allowing AF's commercial interests to control a case outcome. Corporate appeals remain distinct from commercial dispute settlement. Costs of genuinely necessary new technical work shall be transparent and not punitive.

J.15 Suspension, withdrawal and termination

AF may impose the proportionate measures permitted by the scheme and this agreement for substantiated failure, loss of competence/authority, compromised independence, refusal of required oversight, material misuse or other agreed lawful ground. Notice, reasons and a meaningful response opportunity shall be provided, except immediate protection justified by an urgent documented risk with prompt independent review. Suspension shall resolve within the controlling 90-day limit. Financial termination alone shall not fabricate a technical finding.

J.16 Effects of termination

The Operator shall cease new delegated work and affected marks at the stated effective time, communicate accurately with holders, preserve pending cases and necessary safety duties, settle legitimate outstanding obligations and implement Schedule J-E's custody/continuity plan. Sound historic results are not automatically cancelled; each affected population shall be assessed on evidence. AF may appoint a different qualified operator only through the required competence and authorization route. No client transfer shall violate consent, law or confidentiality.

J.17 Liability, insurance and exceptional events

Each party's responsibilities, liability allocation, insurance/equivalent protection, permitted indemnity and any limits shall be stated in Schedule J-C after competent review. Nothing excludes liability that law retains or grants immunity for fraud or knowing unlawful conduct. Disruption may require a controlled continuity or termination response but cannot validate missing evidence, extend an expired credential or waive mandatory protection. The parties shall notify material inability to perform and mitigate effects.

J.18 Governing law, dispute route and execution

Schedule J-A shall identify governing law, competent forum and notice addresses. Commercial arbitration applies only if the parties expressly agree a legally valid clause identifying its seat, rules and appointment arrangements; scheme participation alone is not consent. If AF or an affiliate is a party to a dispute, any arbitral appointment/administration shall follow the agreed independent external route required by the Constitution. Amendments require authorized written execution. Severability, assignment and surviving confidentiality/records duties shall be applied consistently with law and the agreement.

J-A. Parties and execution schedule

Required field	Entry / evidence to complete
AF entity and legal particulars	[Exact registered name, form, jurisdiction, identifier and address]
Operator and legal particulars	[Exact registered name, ownership, form, jurisdiction, identifier and address]
Independent competence decision	[Decision ID/date; scope; conditions; issuing authority]
AF written approval and delegation	[Resolution/approval ID; signatory mandate; exact functions]
Applicable law and forum	[Actual reviewed governing law and competent court/forum]
Optional agreed arbitration	[Express consent, seat, rules, language, tribunal and independent appointment; or Not agreed]
Notices and urgent contacts	[Verified addresses, channels, contacts, deputies and time zones]
Commencement and end	[Actual start and end; conditions precedent completed; renewal basis]
Authorized AF signature	[Name/capacity/signature/authenticated record/date]
Authorized Operator signature	[Name/capacity/signature/authenticated record/date]

J-B to J-E. Integral schedules

Schedule	Mandatory completed content
J-B Authorized scope and license	Activity, route, sectors, methods/ranges, sites, territory, criticality, criteria/editions, profile IDs, issuer, permissible marks, exclusions, onward delegation and change controls.
J-C Fees, responsibilities and protection	Amounts/currency/taxes; costs; payment/refunds; liability allocation; insurance/equivalent protection; record-backed financial limits.
J-D Information and rights	Data roles, purposes, categories, access, locations, providers, permissions, security, incident clocks, IP licenses, retention, lawful return/disposal.
J-E Monitoring, exit and transition	Surveillance/witness plan, contacts, clients/cases, registry duties, continuity, record custodian, safe service cessation and permitted transfer.

Annex K — Credential content, registry schema and permitted claims

NORMATIVE

K.1 Minimum credential and registry fields

Record credential ID; issuer legal entity; AF authorization ID when relevant; holder ID/name; program; outcome type; object route; criteria and editions; technical profile/version; locations; methods/ranges or object/role configuration; criticality or profile intensity; evaluated period; actual decision, issue, expiry/instance boundary; status and restrictions; surveillance due/completed dates; independent decision reference; scope schedule; claim/mark permission; historical changes; public and protected field classification.

K-1. Public claim examples and limits

Result	Model claim — complete with actual data	Prohibited implication
Organizational recognition	"AF recognition for [defined organizational capability], under [profile/version], for [sites] and [period], subject to [limitations]."	Every product is approved; membership alone establishes competence.
Laboratory accreditation	"Accredited within the AF scheme for the activities listed in Scope Schedule [ID/version], under [criteria], at [sites]."	Universal governmental accreditation; all tests or products approved.
Operator authorization	"Authorized by AF to operate [program/routes] within [scope/territory], Authorization [ID], valid under its current conditions."	Exclusive worldwide agency; unrestricted subdelegation.
Product attestation	"Conformity of [exact configuration/lot] to [profile/criteria], based on [decision ID] and [instance/ongoing boundary]."	All variants, future designs or statutory operation approved.
Personnel qualification	"Assessed for [role/profile] within [technical limits]; issuer [entity], current status [verification record]."	All-sector auditor authority or employer/statutory license.
Development relationship	"Participant in [named development/pilot] activity; no recognition/accreditation or production attestation granted."	Provisional accreditation or conditional conformity certificate.

K.2 State and version controls

Separate program status, membership, provider accreditation, AF authorization and individual output states. Each change shall have actual authority and an immutable or equivalently controlled history. A restricted status names the remaining valid scope; suspended scope cannot be hidden behind a general Active label. An offline copy shall carry its issue and validity boundary and warn that current status must be checked through the controlled verification mechanism.

K.3 Machine-readable evidence

A machine-readable record may contain credential ID, issuer identifier, scope/profile identifiers, version, dates, status endpoint or approved equivalent method, signature metadata and integrity digest. Technical evidence need not be public. Protect signing keys; control rotation/revocation; validate issuer identity; preserve signature verification information required for long-life records. Cryptographic validity does not certify technical truth, competence, public recognition or current operational permission by itself.

K.4 Mark review and misuse

Before publication, confirm actual decision, agreement, scope, current status, artwork, attribution and necessary limitations. Do not use the institutional logo as a fabricated accreditation mark. Packaging, test reports, websites, invoices and promotional material shall not confuse ORG, CAB, PRD, membership and award meanings. On material misuse preserve evidence, issue a proportionate correction/restriction and independently verify removal or correction. Historical archives shall not be rewritten to erase legitimate earlier status.

Annex L — Operational record templates and complete case trail

NORMATIVE MINIMUM RECORD CONTENT; BLANK TEMPLATES

The following ten record modules are integral to AF-SR-001. They expand the indicated established forms without creating new standalone corporate form codes. Each completed module shall carry a case ID and retain the governing template edition. Blank fields are not approvals. Use additional controlled pages where evidence exceeds the response space.

L-01 Application and scope review

Source form interface: AF-FR-013. Complete with actual evidence; use a protected continuation record when necessary.

L-01 required fields

Field	Information to record	Entry / evidence reference
Case / applicant	Case ID; legal/person identity; responsible representative; authority evidence.	
Requested result	Recognition, qualification, accreditation, authorization or conformity; routes.	
Scope / profile	Exact activities, sites, methods/ranges, configuration/role, profile/version and exclusions.	
Current and prior status	Relevant earlier decisions, adverse findings, affiliations and claimed permissions.	
Evidence and access	Dossier manifest; lawful access; controlled-data plan; missing information.	
Feasibility / decision	Competence, independence, resources, fees and contract; admit/defer/refuse with reasons, signer and actual date.	

L-02 Team competence and conflict clearance

Source form interface: AF-FR-014; AF-FR-003. Complete with actual evidence; use a protected continuation record when necessary.

L-02 required fields

Field	Information to record	Entry / evidence reference
Assignment	Case, role, person ID, tasks, route, sector, methods and criticality.	
Competence basis	Verified prerequisites, training, tests, mentored work and authorization reference.	
Currency	Practice, CPD, last witness and inactivity/reassessment check.	
Conflicts	Employment/consultancy in previous 24 months; ownership, finance and other relationships.	
Access and coverage	Language, lawful information access, specialist responsibilities and gaps.	
Independent clearance	Restrictions/supervision; competent approver, evidence, actual date and review trigger.	

L-03 Evaluation and witnessing plan

Source form interface: AF-FR-015. Complete with actual evidence; use a protected continuation record when necessary.

L-03 required fields

Field	Information to record	Entry / evidence reference
Scope basis	Criteria/profile versions; sites, shifts, methods, groups and consequences.	
Tasks and sample	Each method family/route; population, selection, representative task and limitations.	
Resources	Productive time by task/person; applicable time floor; separate reporting/review/decision.	
Safe / lawful access	Permissions, information controls, equipment, conditions, stop and fallback arrangements.	
Schedule and responsibility	Dates, time zones, lead, technical specialists and applicant contacts.	
Acceptance	Independent plan review; unresolved coverage; actual approval and changes.	

L-04 Witness and evidence trace

Source form interface: AF-FR-015. Complete with actual evidence; use a protected continuation record when necessary.

L-04 required fields

Field	Information to record	Entry / evidence reference
Observed work	Case/task, method/version, item/sample, equipment, site, people and actual time.	
Conditions and raw evidence	Setup, environment, calibration, provenance, raw data location and custody.	
Observed execution	Steps actually witnessed; representative domain; deviations and unavailable evidence.	
Technical interpretation	Calculations, uncertainty, decision rule, validity checks and contrary evidence.	
Findings	Requirement–evidence–gap; consequence, immediate action and affected outputs.	
Witness conclusion	Demonstrated scope and limits; reviewer, notifications and actual record authentication.	

L-05 Nonconformity and effective closure

Source form interface: AF-FR-016. Complete with actual evidence; use a protected continuation record when necessary.

L-05 required fields

Field	Information to record	Entry / evidence reference
Finding identity	Case, requirement/version, evidence, gap, affected population and class.	
Original clock	First formal notice; immediate action; plan/closure deadlines; actual time zone.	
Containment and extent	Affected current/earlier work, customers, methods/sites and protective decisions.	
Cause and correction	Evidence-supported cause; correction; recurrence control; responsible owner.	
Verification	Method, independent competent verifier, implementation and effectiveness evidence.	
Disposition	Closed/open; actual date, reasons, status implications, original deadlines retained.	

L-06 Independent review and decision

Source form interface: AF-FR-015. Complete with actual evidence; use a protected continuation record when necessary.

L-06 required fields

Field	Information to record	Entry / evidence reference
Decision basis	Exact dossier, scope, rules/profile, permissions and existing status.	
Review gates	All criteria/evidence, time/witness coverage, competence, conflicts and closure.	
Panel / authority	Names or protected IDs, competence, independence, participation and mandate.	
Outcome	Grant/refuse/maintain/renew/extend/restrict/suspend/restore/withdraw/correct.	
Reasons and dissent	Material evidence; unresolved objection and disposition; votes where required.	
Release instruction	Scope schedule, actual decision/issue/expiry, signatory, notice, registry and appeal route.	

L-07 Authorization and mark release

Source form interface: AF-FR-025; AF-FR-031. Complete with actual evidence; use a protected continuation record when necessary.

L-07 required fields

Field	Information to record	Entry / evidence reference
Parties and authority	AF entity/operator; decision and institutional approval; signatory mandate.	
Agreement	Executed MoU ID/version; J-A to J-E schedules; conditions effective.	
Scope and claim	Activities, routes, sites, methods, territory, restrictions and exact public wording.	
Artwork / data	Permitted mark, media, rights, public fields and confidentiality clearance.	
Current status	Accreditation/authorization separately verified; start, end and limitations.	
Release approval	Independent technical/claims check; actual issuer and date; record and notice locations.	

L-08 Surveillance, change and restoration

Source form interface: AF-FR-015; AF-FR-005. Complete with actual evidence; use a protected continuation record when necessary.

L-08 required fields

Field	Information to record	Entry / evidence reference
Holder and basis	Credential/operator, profile, scope, criticality and original expiry.	
Triggers and due dates	Last completed assessment; material change/incident; surveillance and closure clocks.	
Evaluation	Current method/personnel, witnesses, findings, look-back and required new evidence.	
Protective state	Scope suspended/restricted; actual decision, reasons and resolution deadline.	
Renewal or restoration	Verified correction; independent decision; original expiry or separate complete renewal.	
Communication	Holder/affected users, registry, real dates, gap disclosure and next duties.	

L-09 Complaint and independent appeal

Source form interface: AF-FR-017. Complete with actual evidence; use a protected continuation record when necessary.

L-09 required fields

Field	Information to record	Entry / evidence reference
Receipt and protection	Actual receipt, safe contact, issue, disputed decision, evidence and urgent triage.	
Clocks	Acknowledgment, submission/admissibility, response, determination and progress dates.	
Panel independence	Three persons, technical competence, excluded prior roles and unconflicted selection.	
Evidence and fairness	Original/new evidence, party responses, confidentiality limitations and investigation.	
Reasoned remedy	Affirm/correct/set aside/remit/withdraw within mandate; reasons and actual status effects.	
Closure and learning	Implementation, systemic review, record protection, non-retaliation and notices.	

L-10 Program closure and record transfer

Source form interface: AF-FR-004; AF-FR-021. Complete with actual evidence; use a protected continuation record when necessary.

L-10 required fields

Field	Information to record	Entry / evidence reference
Decision and scope	Program/operator, closure/restriction authority, reason and actual effective time.	
Affected duties	Holders, live cases, surveillance, appeals, contracts, funds, long-life evidence and marks.	
Custodian / receiving operator	Verified identity, competence, authority, lawful access and consent where required.	
Records and verification	Manifest, formats, hashes/equivalent integrity, retention/holds, protected public status.	
Communications	Users and counterparties, responsible contacts, prohibited current claims and continuity.	
Completion	Reconciliation, unresolved issues, receiving acknowledgment and authenticated approval.	

L.1 End-to-end trace example

Synthetic trail: application APP-EX-01 selects CAB laboratory scope; TEAM-EX-01 clears competence/conflicts; PLAN-EX-01 identifies two distinct method families; WIT-EX-01 finds one calibration-range gap; NC-EX-01 blocks that scope; verified correction updates the dossier; REV-EX-01 confirms evidence; DEC-EX-01 records an independent panel outcome; AUTH-EX-01 separately records the effective MoU/scope; REG-EX-01 publishes the exact claim; SURV-EX-01 sets continuing work. No example ID represents a real AF grant.

Annex M — Peer review, equivalence and reliance arrangements

NORMATIVE

M-1. Counterpart or accrediting-operator review

Review area	Required examination	Acceptance gate
Legal identity and authority	Actual powers, jurisdiction, responsibility, public/private status and permission to conclude the arrangement.	No reliance on a claimed mandate without evidence.
Rules and scope	Exact technical criteria, methods, ranges, editions, local differences and permitted claims.	Every accepted scope is defined; gaps remain explicit.
Independence	Governance, consultancy, related ownership, sales, funding and protected oversight.	Actual separation and effective conflict controls demonstrated.
People	Verified technical/audit/review/decision competence, currency, witnessing and reassignment.	No blanket mutual recognition of unverified personnel.
Assessment implementation	Representative end-to-end cases, raw evidence, site/method coverage, adverse results and correction.	Paper policies alone do not suffice.
Decision quality	Scope, all mandatory gates, independent review, authorized decision and truthful limitations.	No acceptance of missing critical evidence through aggregate scores.
Continuing controls	Surveillance, change, renewal, overdue action, suspension, expiry and transfer.	No automatic continuation of unsupported or lapsed claims.
Remedies and records	Independent appeals, fair response, source evidence, privacy, retention and secure retrieval.	Original case involvement excluded from appeal decisions.
Digital trust and closure	Issuer identity, registry accuracy, key and data integrity, recovery and exit arrangements.	Current and historic status verifiable without false authority claims.

M.1 Review composition and method

Accrediting-operator peer review uses at least three independent competent reviewers under Clause 11. Counterpart-reliance review shall have an appropriately competent independent team proportionate to its scope. Retain reviewer competence, conflicts, plan, sampled/witnessed cases, findings, response and decision. Limited information or an unfinished readiness review shall be stated as a limitation, not a complete recognition outcome.

M.2 Arrangement particulars

An arrangement shall state parties, permitted use, recognized evidence types, technical scopes and versions, territories, exclusions, residual AF checks, responsible receiving decision makers, information rights, complaints, fees where relevant, monitoring, status-change notices, revision, suspension, termination and historic-result treatment. Every claimed equivalence shall have a requirement-level rationale. An arrangement may be unilateral or reciprocal but reciprocity shall not be purchased by overlooking deficiencies.

M.3 Ongoing monitoring

Review the arrangement at least annually for continuing authority, scope, incidents, decisions, restrictions and user experience, and immediately after significant adverse evidence. Under these Rules, a full competence-based renewal review shall occur at least every 36 months, or sooner where the arrangement specifies. These are new arrangement controls and do not extend any individual attestation. Suspend affected reliance when its basis cannot be demonstrated; notify users and preserve case history.

M.4 Public wording

Publish only the actual accepted scope, named counterpart, effective period and substantive limitations. Do not describe negotiations as a signed agreement or an AF technical recognition as governmental recognition. “Mutual recognition” is appropriate only to the specific reciprocal arrangement actually agreed. A purchaser’s acceptance of one report does not establish recognition of all AF programs.

Annex N — Innovation gates, digital assurance and supply-chain adoption

NORMATIVE CONTROLS; EXAMPLES ARE INFORMATIVE

N-1. Emerging-technology release gates

Gate	Required evidence	Prohibited shortcut
N0 — Define	Object, intended use, domain, maturity, credible consequence, users, obligations and exact proposed claim.	A technology name or ambitious roadmap as an assessable requirement.
N1 — Establish method	Technical criteria, measurable/observable outcomes, validation data, assumptions, uncertainty and failure cases.	A preferred model or one favorable demonstration as sufficient validation.
N2 — Secure evidence	Data rights, configuration, access, integrity, reproducibility, model/tool validation and independent review.	Unapproved AI/cloud processing or hidden synthetic evidence.
N3 — Bound pilot	Actual operator, permissions, safe limits, participants, containment, recordkeeping and explicit non-production claim.	Pilot participation marketed as production accreditation.
N4 — Challenge	Independent technical scrutiny, counter-evidence, adverse/edge cases, dependence, drift and recovery.	Aggregate success rate overriding critical failure or missing evidence.
N5 — Adopt rules	Required public consultation, elected technical approval, lawful publication and exact version.	Unannounced criteria inserted after the applicant's results.
N6 — Authorize live scope	Competent operator, independent decision, actual agreement/marks, registry and continuing controls.	Automatic live status from a completed pilot.
N7 — Sustain or restrict	Monitoring, material change triggers, witnessed competence, incident learning, renewal and exit.	Live telemetry treated as a substitute for periodic independent decisions.

N.1 Digital assurance record

For a digital twin, AI evaluation or continuous-evidence feed, record model/software/build, training/test data identity and rights, intended domain, physical reference, validation, bias/uncertainty, configuration changes, operator responsibilities, security, timestamps, missing-data treatment and human review. Define what change reopens the assessment. A cryptographic signature, network connection or vendor benchmark does not by itself establish safety, correctness or continuing accreditation.

N.2 Space, defense and remote systems

Profiles shall address applicable long-duration support, communication delay, constrained repair, inaccessible hardware, mission and configuration change, end-of-life responsibilities and controlled information. Use representative terrestrial or simulated evidence only where its validity for the claimed domain is justified. Unknown operating conditions remain restrictions. These gates govern quality and evidence, not military tactics, deployment authority or spacecraft licensing.

N-2. Contractual flow-down schedule

Subject	Required downstream control
Performer and technical baseline	Actual entity/site, scope, drawings/models/software and effectivity; no hidden substitution.
Criticality and acceptance	Relevant consequence, essential characteristics, valid methods, uncertainty/decision rules and hold points.

Subject	Required downstream control
Competence and processes	People authorization, qualified process variables, equipment, methods and requalification triggers.
Further tiers and change	Critical sub-tier identity, requirement acknowledgment, approved subcontracting and prior material-change review.
Records and integrity	Material and digital genealogy, real raw results, adverse findings, retention, lawful access and secure transfer.
Escape and continuity	Immediate containment, population trace, required notice, correction of source and receiving controls, exit and support.

N.3 Model purchaser language

Illustrative contractual wording: “The supplier shall demonstrate the specified [route and scope] against [AF rule/profile/edition] by [required evidence] for [actual sites/configuration]. Any required AF-authorized independent result shall be current and within its exact scope. The purchaser retains its acceptance responsibility and any mandatory obligations. Equivalent evidence may be considered only through the pre-agreed competent review, without reducing stated technical minima.” This is a drafting model, not an executed purchasing mandate or a requirement on non-consenting organizations.

Annex O — Source alignment, document interfaces and new controls

INFORMATIVE CONTROLLED ALIGNMENT MAP

This map distinguishes inherited requirements from newly authored rules and identifies the existing documents that require controlled implementation alignment. It does not amend earlier files, claim their actual adoption or reopen AF 9100:2026. Page numbers refer to the supplied final-text editions; document code and clause are controlling.

O-1. Source-to-rule alignment

Existing basis	Retained requirement / interface	These Rules
AF-CON-001 Articles 1–3, 19	Full sector mission, public benefit, voluntary/contractual authority, rule hierarchy and actual program release.	Clauses 1–3, 7, 26–29; Annexes A, C, N, P.
AF-CON-001 Articles 8–18, 22–24	Council/President, elected technical work, independent decisions, ≥60-day consultation, two-thirds ballots, authorization MoU and remedies.	Clauses 5–6, 9, 19–20, 23; Annexes B, J.
AF-CON-001 Articles 25–28, 31	Finance, records, truthful claims, quality review, real adoption and transition.	Clauses 24–25, 28–29; Annexes I, K, P.
AF-QM-001; AF-PR-007 to AF-PR-010	Program profile, P06/P07/P08 separation, all in-scope findings closed, technical witnessing, current status.	Clauses 7–14, 16–22; Annexes C–E, H–L.
AF 9100:2026 Annexes AA–AD	Object routes, profile, competence, productive audit-time floor and decision logic.	Clauses 4, 8, 12–19; Annexes A, F–H.
AF 9100:2026 Annexes AE–AI	Personnel practical gates, subcontractor control, 24-month ceiling, risk-based surveillance, CAB competence and independent appeals.	Clauses 14–25; Annexes E–L, N.
AF-PR-011; AF-SC-004	Verified role competence and assignment; AF 9100 role minima retained.	Clause 15 and Annex F.
AF-PR-014, AF-PR-015, AF-SC-001; AF-RG-001	Authentic records, protected access, actual status, recovery, retention and data dictionary.	Clauses 24–25; Annexes I, K, L.
AF-GD-001, AF-GD-002, AF-GD-003	Expanded committee, membership and record guidance without changing constitutional powers.	Reading interfaces; no mandatory recognition as a condition of membership.

O-2. Explicitly new scheme choices

New control	Why introduced / limitation
Common recognition criteria RC01–RC16	Provides an assessable baseline; technical profiles still required for technical claims.
Activity modules and CAB criteria AC01–AC16	Makes provider evaluation operational; does not create universal product/test limits.
Three-person accreditation case panel	Additional scheme safeguard; not a new corporate board or amendment of AF 9100.
Independent accrediting-operator readiness and ≤36-month peer review	Scrutiny of AF's own accreditation delivery structure; not self-accreditation or proof of external recognition.
Standalone 24-month ceiling and 12-/six-month surveillance	Explicit new common terms for standalone programs; Constitution contains no universal cycle and AF 9100 clocks remain unchanged.
Standalone five-day non-critical material-change notice	Complements prior-change approval and immediate critical duties; cannot delay earlier obligations.
Standalone audit-role adoption of existing competence baseline	Extends common consistency without treating all technical specialists as generic auditors.
Full authorization schedules, digital credential and innovation gates	Closes operating gaps through defined evidence, scope, rights and responsible deployment.

New control	Why introduced / limitation
Reliance arrangement annual monitoring / ≤36-month full review	Additional arrangement controls; no automatic cross-border or statutory effect.

O-3. Controlled alignment actions

Document/interface	Required action; existing file remains unchanged
AF-ML-001; AF-QM-001	Add AF-SR-001 with actual adoption/effectivity; link P06–P08; preserve distinct scope and broader federation mission.
AF-GV-002; AF-PR-006; AF-FR-009; AF-FR-011	Resolve older appointed-committee/half-participation/publication wording against the operative Constitution. Permanent elections, two-thirds substantive participation and Council publication authority apply as adopted.
AF-PR-007; AF-FR-004; AF-FR-013	Add common scheme, technical profile and actual release-gate records; separate expressions of interest from applications.
AF-PR-008 to AF-PR-010; AF-FR-015	Implement recognition criteria, CAB activity modules, independent panel, exact outcome and preserved AF 9100 controls.
AF-PR-011; AF-FR-014; AF-SC-004	Map current role scope, competence, conflict exclusions and independent bootstrap/witness records.
AF-FR-025; AF-PR-021	Separate ordinary partnerships from binding AF authorization MoUs with completed scopes and schedules.
AF-PR-014; AF-PR-020; AF-FR-031; AF-BR-001	Link public claims and marks to independent current decisions and separate authorization status.
AF-PR-019; AF-FR-017	Retain three-person independent constitutional appeal route, exact clocks and specialty protective duties.
AF-SC-001; AF-RG-001; AF-GD-003	Preserve permanent corporate/constitutional resolutions and appropriate technical retention; separate incidental personal data.
AF 9100:2026 final PDF and DOCX	No modification. Any future technical amendment requires its own separately authorized maintenance project.

O.1 Master List entry

Proposed new entry: AF-SR-001 | Recognition & Accreditation Scheme Rules | Scheme rules | Owner: Assurance Programme Manager | Processes: P06, P07 and P08, with P01/P02/P03/P05/P09/P16/P17/P18 interfaces | First Edition | Revision 00 | Edition date: 30 September 2026 | Retention: R01 publication lineage; completed technical cases R06 and related classes | Actual approval/effectivity: record through AF-FR-001 and AF-ML-001. This is a supplied entry, not a claim that the prior workbook has been updated.

O.2 Complete corporate reference set

The AF-CON-001 Constitution, AF-QM-001 quality manual, AF-ML-001 index, AF-GV-002 and AF-GV-003, AF-PL-003/AF-PL-005/AF-PL-006/AF-PL-008/AF-PL-009/AF-PL-012, AF-PR-001 to AF-PR-004, AF-PR-006 to AF-PR-021 as relevant, AF-SC-001/AF-SC-002/AF-SC-004/AF-SC-005, AF-FR-001 to AF-FR-006, AF-FR-009 to AF-FR-017, AF-FR-021 to AF-FR-025, AF-FR-031, AF-RG-001 and AF-BR-001 provide the established operating interfaces. The three AF-GD guides explain related participation and document controls. Use the exact current effective versions, with conflicts handled under Clause 3.

Annex P — Adoption, launch readiness and implementation record

NORMATIVE

This Annex records actual decisions and release conditions. Document preparation does not establish incorporation, the Constitution's commencement, completed elections, accreditation powers, external acceptance or a live operating program. The required evidence shall be obtained and authenticated before the corresponding authority or claim is used.

P-1. Mandatory readiness record

Gate	Required real evidence	Result / reference
P01 Legal entity	Authenticated identity, jurisdiction, formation instruments and contracting powers.	
P02 Constitutional basis	Actual Constitution commencement and compatible governance/appointment/delegation records.	
P03 Normative development	Consultation, material comment disposition, valid technical ballot and publication decision.	
P04 Exact adopted version	AF-SR-001 edition/revision, file identity, record custodian and actual adoption/effectivity.	
P05 Program charter	Named legal operator, object routes, active scopes and accountable owners.	
P06 Technical criteria	Complete approved profiles, method validation, limits, essential gates and available evidence.	
P07 People	Competent assessors, specialists, reviewers, panels and deputies with actual authorizations.	
P08 Independence	Institutional separation, case conflicts, protected oversight and independent appeals.	
P09 Resources	Facilities, equipment, finance, liability arrangements, access and continuity.	
P10 Jurisdiction / transfers	Activity-specific legal permissions, terminology, controlled information and data-transfer review.	
P11 Accrediting operator review	Independent pre-launch review and resolved readiness findings for accreditation delivery.	
P12 Agreements	Application terms, fee schedule, operator MoUs and exact scope/mark schedules where needed.	
P13 Records / digital status	Secure case system, current registry, public boundaries, retention and tested recovery.	
P14 Rehearsals	Complete synthetic case and essential-failure, conflict, suspension, appeal and correction tests.	
P15 Transition / communication	Affected documents/cases, actual notices, preserved rights, frozen AF 9100 and approved claims.	
P16 Final release	Authorized go/no-go decision, actual effective date, permitted scope and unclosed limitations.	

P.1 Model adoption decision — complete with actual authority

“The legally competent approving authority identified in the attached record adopts AF-SR-001, Recognition & Accreditation Scheme Rules, First Edition, Revision 00, as identified by its controlled file record, with effective use from [actual date and time], after the required normative and corporate approvals. The decision approves only the programs and profiles expressly listed in [scope record],

subject to the completed readiness gates and documented restrictions. It directs responsible owners to update the controlled document system and preserve prior records. It does not amend AF 9100:2026, create public licensing authority or claim unverified external recognition.”

P-2. Authentication

Field	Actual entry
Approving organ / delegated authority and mandate	
Meeting / written decision ID, participation and required votes	
Consultation and technical approval evidence	
Actual adoption date and effective time / zone	
Approved initial scopes / restrictions / unresolved dependencies	
Authorized signatory, capacity and authenticated signature	
Corporate secretary / Quality Manager custody confirmation	

P.2 Phased implementation

Phase 1: verify authority, adopt the rules, approve profiles and assign competent independent functions. Phase 2: conduct controlled rehearsals and any bounded pilots without overstating their status. Phase 3: activate only scopes whose release gates pass; complete actual independent assessments and authorizations. Phase 4: operate registry, surveillance, remedies and provider oversight; report evidence-based performance. Phase 5: expand profiles and cooperation only after demonstrated resources, consultation and formal approval. These are implementation stages, not promises that legal approvals will occur by an arbitrary calendar date.

P.3 Completion criterion

Implementation is demonstrated when the actual authority, people, operational cases, independent decisions, signed scope-specific agreements, current public records, completed surveillance and effective remedies can be traced. A set of finished files is a necessary documented baseline, not evidence that the federation already operates every listed service. Unresolved essential gates shall remain visible and restrict the corresponding program until closed.

END OF AF-SR-001 | FIRST EDITION | REVISION 00