AOS architectural rules - working draft

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Status: reconciled working drafting guidance; 3 October 2026. See ../90 Architecture Records/FAR-001-Reconciliation-v0.1.md. Source FAR-001, especially §§1-10, and the incorporation review. AOS-00 DEC-001-026 and FP v4/RP v6 take precedence where wording differs. These are candidate rules, not approved requirement IDs.

1. Functional prescription, implementation freedom. Specify capabilities, functions, properties and tests while leaving technical implementation to an authorised implementation specification (DEC-019).
2. Purpose does not confer authority. Alignment with telos cannot alone justify a means or an action.
3. Independent constraint. The acting intelligence cannot unilaterally grant, expand or remove its own effective authority. It may interpret evidence and request clarification; its interpretation cannot activate permission not otherwise granted. Shared enforcement responsibilities follow DEC-005 and authority changes DEC-007/024/025.
4. Organisational legibility. Material actions need linked evidence of actor, authority, context, captured evidence and applied rules, model outputs where relevant, approved human decision rationale, decision, action, consequence and intervention, subject to lawful access and proportionality. Under QS-19, private model reasoning and retrospective generated explanations are not proof of the actual decision path.
5. Defence in depth. Ethical reasoning, enforceable controls, human processes and monitoring overlap; a failure of one cannot be assumed harmless.
6. Semantic boundaries. Constraints explain their meaning, authority basis and escalation route to the acting intelligence by default. Security, privacy or feasibility exceptions require a recorded reason and review; an explanation exception never waives enforcement. Explanations must not themselves grant authority. This direction was confirmed by Mark on 3 October 2026 (FAR-R-002); exact requirements, disclosure rules and acceptance cases remain to be specified in AOS-01/03/04/05. Enforcement remains independent of the requesting intelligence.
7. Governed evolution. Agents may discover evidence and propose amendments but cannot activate them. Telos amendment is reserved to the board under DEC-024; the AOS specification's own amendment authority needs a separate constitution.
8. Cross-architectural coherence. A proposed change identifies dependencies, affected contracts, conformance claims, migration and dissent before approval.
9. Transferable governance. Define governance roles and decision rights independently of a named founder, even when one person currently fills several roles.
10. Conformance through contracts. Assess declared scope against functions, semantics, authority, failure, provenance and evidence, with partial claims explicit; product choice alone is not conformance.

Allocation note: Rules 2-6 inform AOS-01-05/14/20/30; rules 1, 8 and 10 inform AOS-00/02/40 and extension contracts; rules 7-9 also inform the Change Constitution. Verify each against RP v6 and existing AOS-00 REQ/VER records before assigning stable normative identifiers. In particular, AOS-14 external exchange is distinct from shared systemwide enforcement (DEC-005).

Reconciliation limits: preserve the housing-sector core, DEC-018 self-calibration deferral and overdue-repair first example. Capability/function/contract views supplement explicit REQ and planned VER records. No rule here assigns new normative IDs or proves conformance. Independent project review is deferred; required organisational oversight remains in scope.