

ARCS Trademark Policy

Version 1.0 · Effective 2026 · Vega Commons Project, Inc.

1. Purpose

This policy governs use of the ARCS name, the ARCS logo, and related source and status designations used in connection with the Automated Record Custody Standard. Its purpose is to permit accurate reference to ARCS while preventing confusion about authorship, publication status, conformance, certification, endorsement, or affiliation.

2. Covered Marks

This policy applies to: (a) ARCS; (b) Automated Record Custody Standard; (c) any ARCS logo or stylized wordmark; (d) any badge, seal, or graphic issued by Vega Commons Project, Inc. in connection with ARCS; (e) any designation used by Vega Commons Project, Inc. to indicate official publication, conformance, certification, or endorsement status.

3. Ownership

ARCS and related marks are owned by Vega Commons Project, Inc. No use of the ARCS marks creates any right, title, or interest in them.

4. Permitted Referential Use

No prior written permission is required for truthful referential use of the ARCS name where the use is reasonably necessary to identify the standard and does not imply sponsorship, endorsement, certification, or affiliation.

Examples include: (a) "This policy was developed with reference to ARCS." (b) "We assessed our governance posture against ARCS." (c) "This document cites ARCS Control LIF-03." (d) "This system implements selected ARCS controls." (e) "Our record governance framework maps to the ARCS-LIF and ARCS-CUS control families."

Such use must be truthful, must use only so much of the mark as reasonably necessary, must not imply that Vega Commons Project, Inc. reviewed, approved, certified, endorsed, or sponsors the user or offering, and must not use the ARCS logo.

5. Conformance and Alignment Claims

Because ARCS includes a published conformance structure, use of ARCS in conformance language is governed as follows.

5.1 Claims Permitted Without Prior Approval

A party may make factual, non-endorsing statements such as: "assessed against ARCS," "mapped to ARCS," "designed with reference to ARCS," "implements selected ARCS controls," or "aligned to ARCS control concepts." These statements must not imply review, endorsement, validation, or certification by Vega Commons Project, Inc.

5.2 Self-Declared Conformance Claims

A party may make a self-declared conformance claim only if all of the following are true: (a) the claim identifies the specific ARCS version; (b) the claim identifies the specific claimed conformance level, where applicable; (c) the claim is made pursuant to the published ARCS self-assessment or conformance procedure then in effect; (d) the claimant maintains written records sufficient to substantiate the claim, including a conformance statement prepared in accordance with Standard Annex H; (e) the claim clearly states that it is self-declared and not reviewed, certified, or endorsed by Vega Commons Project, Inc.; (f) the claim does not use the ARCS logo or any certification-style badge unless separately authorized; (g) where the ARCS standard requires independent assessment at the claimed conformance level, the claim is not made on a self-declared basis.

5.3 Claims Requiring Written Authorization

The following require prior written authorization from Vega Commons Project, Inc.: (a) use of the ARCS logo; (b) "ARCS certified"; (c) "ARCS approved"; (d) "official ARCS implementation"; (e) "validated by ARCS"; (f) any badge, seal, emblem, or graphic implying official validation; (g) any statement implying that Vega Commons Project, Inc. reviewed, verified, endorsed, approved, or sponsors the claimant or offering; (h) use of the ARCS marks in a product name, service name, or organizational name; (i) offering services described as "ARCS certification," "ARCS audit," or "official ARCS assessment" where the service description implies VCP affiliation or authority; (j) issuing conformance certificates, badges, seals, or other credentials that use the ARCS marks.

5.4 Accuracy and Currency Obligations

Self-declared conformance claims must remain accurate. If the assessed system undergoes material changes that affect the governance posture documented in the conformance statement, the organization must either update its assessment or withdraw the conformance claim.

6. Prohibited Uses

The following uses are prohibited: (a) use of ARCS as part of a product, company, service, or framework name in a manner likely to cause confusion as to source; (b) use of ARCS in a domain name, account name, or branding presentation likely to imply official status; (c) use of the ARCS logo without written permission; (d) use of ARCS in a manner that falsely implies conformance, certification, endorsement, sponsorship, or affiliation; (e) use of ARCS to label a modified, forked, or unofficial standard text as if it were the official standard; (f) any misleading, deceptive, unlawful, or defamatory use of the ARCS marks.

7. Required Disclaimer for Self-Declared Conformance

A self-declared conformance claim must appear with the following disclaimer, or materially equivalent language, in reasonable proximity:

"This is a self-declared conformance statement and has not been reviewed, certified, or endorsed by Vega Commons Project, Inc."

8. Modification

Vega Commons Project, Inc. may modify this policy at any time. Modified versions will be published at arcsstandard.org.

9. Reservation of Rights

All rights not expressly granted are reserved. Nothing in this policy limits the rights of Vega Commons Project, Inc. under applicable trademark law.

10. Contact

Questions about this policy should be directed to info@arcsstandard.org or info@vegacommons.org.

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