

AIFD-STD-CLS-001

Accreditation Classes — Class A Designation Requirements

CLASSES D'ACCREDITATION — EXIGENCES DE LA CLASSE A

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— Foreword

The International Federation of AI Film Producers' Associations (IFAIFPA) publishes the AIFD catalogue of standards for the disclosure, identity and accountability of AI film production, and operates the accreditation schemes that assess conformity with them. Standards are drafted by the federation's standards function, exposed to public consultation, and adopted by resolution of the governing body. Requirements use the verb shall; recommendations use should; permissions use may. Notes and informative annexes do not contain requirements.

This document, AIFD-STD-CLS-001 Accreditation Classes — Class A Designation Requirements, was first published on 9 December 2024. The present edition was adopted on 16 January 2026. The revision history in the final annex records every edition and its principal changes. The English text is authoritative; le texte anglais fait foi.

Nothing in this document grants any right to use a federation mark, and no conformity claim may be made except through the assessment and decision process defined in AIFD-STD-REV-001 and recorded in the federation's public register.

0 Introduction (informative)

Since its first editions of August 2024 the AIFD catalogue has drawn one line only: an operator meets a published standard, or it does not. That line remains the foundation of every scheme. The register's first operating months showed the value of a second, upward line: a public designation for accredited operators whose verified capability substantially exceeds the baseline. This standard — first published in December 2024 and consolidated through five major revisions into the present edition — defines that line, in the two-level pattern recognisable across international accreditation practice: one distinguished designation above one unified accredited list.

For festivals, this standard deliberately departs from the tradition of measuring only attendance and press. An AI film festival differs from a traditional festival in kind, not merely in subject: the works it handles are verifiable digital assets carrying disclosure records, content hashes and provenance manifests, and the festival itself must therefore be a competent systems operator — able to receive, verify, select, record and trade those assets without breaking their chain of evidence — and a working node of the AI-film economy, not a screening room alone. The Class A requirements are ordered accordingly: lawful operator first, system capability second, the festival's own use of AI third, ecosystem services fourth, and scale — the traditional dimension — last.

A class says how far verified capability extends. It does not say that one festival's films are better than another's, and it may never be presented as if it did. There is deliberately no class below the baseline: an operator that is Accredited or Certified without a class designation is in full conformity, and the absence of a class is not a finding, a warning or a grade. The architecture is Class A, or the baseline — nothing else.

1 Scope

This standard defines the federation's accreditation class system: the designation architecture (clause 5), the requirements for the Class A designation under the AI Film Festival Accreditation scheme, AIFD-FES (clause 6), and under the Responsible AI Production Organisation certification scheme, AIFD-PRO-ORG (clause 7); the designation lifecycle (clause 8); and the rules governing use of the designation (clause 9).

This standard applies to no other scheme. Recognition of producers' associations (AIFD-MEM) is a governance relationship and shall not carry a class. This standard creates no requirement for any operator that does not seek a class designation.

2 Normative references

AIFD-STD-DEF-001, AI Film Definitions & Classification, current edition.

AIFD-STD-FES-001, AI Film Festival Accreditation Requirements, current edition.

AIFD-STD-PRO-001, Production Disclosure & Accountability, current edition.

AIFD-STD-RGT-001, Rights, Provenance & Identity, current edition.

AIFD-STD-REV-001, Independent Review, Complaints & Appeals, current edition.

The published assessment rules of the AIFD-PRO-ORG pilot, as in force at the date of application.

3 Terms and definitions

3.1 designation

Public statement of an operator's standing under a scheme, recorded in the register: the baseline designation, or the baseline designation together with Class A.

3.2 baseline designation

Accredited (AIFD-FES) or Certified (AIFD-PRO-ORG): the designation stating that the operator meets the scheme standard. The baseline designation is full conformity and is not altered by this standard.

3.3 Class A

Designation awarded in addition to the baseline designation when every requirement of clause 6 (festivals) or clause 7 (production organisations) is verified.

3.4 full-chain system

The integrated systems by which a festival receives, verifies, selects, records, archives and — where clause 6.4 applies — trades works as AI assets, preserving each work's disclosure record, content hash and provenance manifest end to end.

3.5 verification window

The period whose facts are assessed: for festivals, the most recently completed accredited edition unless a requirement states otherwise; for production organisations, the trailing 24 months.

3.6 annual review

The yearly re-verification of a class holder against this standard, required by clauses 6.7 and 7.3.

3.7 non-conforming year

A year whose annual review records any requirement of clause 6 or 7 as not met.

4 Principles

4.1 Fact, not merit

A class designation states verified capability, scale and transparency. It shall not be derived from, and shall not be presented as, a judgement of artistic quality, a ranking of works, or an endorsement of programming taste. Nothing in this standard modifies the rule of the catalogue that accreditation is not a prize.

4.2 Objectivity

Every Class A criterion shall be a fact that can be verified against evidence; every threshold shall be published in this standard; and no criterion may be assessed by unstated preference. Where a requirement cannot be verified, it is not met.

4.3 One baseline, one class

The architecture has exactly two levels. There shall be no designation below the baseline, no intermediate class, and no numerical score published beside a designation. The federation shall not publish any list that orders operators within a designation.

4.4 Financial integrity

Class assessment is charged at the published fee schedule. Fees pay for assessment, never for outcome; refusal of a class forfeits no right to reapply; and aggregate class refusal rates shall be published annually with the refusal rates already published under AIFD-STD-REV-001.

4.5 Decision and appeal

Every class decision — award, refusal, downgrade, withdrawal — shall be taken by two officers, neither of whom performed the assessment, with written reasons, and is appealable under AIFD-STD-REV-001. Assessors and decision-makers are subject to the conflict-of-interest rules of that standard.

4.6 Public record

The class shall appear in the public register entry and on any certificate issued while it is current. Lifecycle events (award, downgrade, suspension, withdrawal, reinstatement) shall be recorded in the entry's permanent history.

5 Designation architecture

SCHEME	BASELINE DESIGNATION	CLASS DESIGNATION	CERTIFICATE WORDING
AIFD-FES	Accredited	Class A	ACCREDITED · CLASS A
AIFD-PRO-ORG	Certified	Class A	CERTIFIED · CLASS A
AIFD-MEM	Recognised (member)	—	no class is used

The class attaches to the operator, not to an edition. Once awarded it remains in force without re-application — there is no expiry date to renew — subject to the annual review of clauses 6.7 and 7.3 and to clause 8. It ends only by cancellation under clause 8.3, by extinction with its baseline under clause 8.2, or by voluntary relinquishment. The register entry is at all times the authoritative statement of whether the class is current.

The class is stored as a field of the register record and sealed into the certificate's canonical content in the same way as every other certified fact: certificate number, issue instant and content hash bind the class at issuance. A certificate issued before a class was awarded remains valid evidence of its own facts; the register entry is, as always, the current truth.

6 Class A — AI film festivals (AIFD-FES)

Festival Class A rests on five pillars, assessed in the order given: L — lawful operator (clause 6.1, the gate); S — full-chain system capability (6.2); O — AI in the festival's own operations (6.3); E — ecosystem service capability (6.4); and R — scale and reach (6.5). Every requirement of every pillar shall be verified. Any unmet requirement defeats the application, with reasons; partial awards are not made.

6.1 Pillar L — Lawful operator (eligibility gate)

An applicant shall, at the date of application: (a) hold Accredited status under AIFD-STD-FES-001, whose gates G1–G3 already verify lawful registration, a responsible management entity and real premises; (b) evidence that its registration and good standing are current, re-verified against the government registry of record; (c) have completed at least one accredited edition, which forms the verification window; (d) have had no suspension, revocation or upheld adverse finding in the preceding 24 months, or since first accreditation if shorter; and (e) be current on all reporting owed under its accreditation.

There is deliberately no requirement of consecutive editions and no seniority requirement beyond one completed accredited edition: Class A measures present capability, not age. A festival may apply upon completing its first accredited edition if it can already evidence every pillar.

6.2 Pillar S — Full-chain system capability

What separates an AI film festival from a traditional festival is that its works are verifiable digital assets. An A- class festival shall therefore operate, itself or through contracted platforms under its documented control, an integrated system covering the full life of a work in the festival — intake, verification, selection, record, archive — without breaking the work's chain of evidence:

CLS-S1 · Structured intake. An online submission system that captures at intake, for every submitted work, a structured machine-readable disclosure record in the template of AIFD-STD-PRO-001 — classification under AIFD-STD-DEF-001, systems used, rights basis — together with the work's content hash (SHA-256), computed or verified on receipt.

CLS-S2 · Verification pipeline. Automated verification on intake: parsing and validation of provenance manifests (C2PA or equivalent) where present; completeness checks of disclosure and rights declarations; flagging of anomalies (hash mismatch, invalid manifest, incomplete consent claims) into a human review queue with recorded dispositions.

CLS-S3 · Selection with audit trail. A selection and jury workflow system in which every advancement, recusal and decision is recorded (role, stage, timestamp), in-system conflict declarations implement gate G12 of AIFD-STD-FES-001, and deliberation records are retained under the scheme's retention schedule.

CLS-S4 · Registry interoperability. Records machine-readable and interoperable with the AIFD registry: verified disclosure records for selected works referenced by AIFD identifiers; awarded works' records filed to the register; the work's identifier stable from submission through selection, award and archive.

CLS-S5 · Evidential archive. A post-edition archive holding, for every awarded work: content hash, disclosure record, provenance manifest and decision trail, retained for at least five years.

CLS-S6 · Protection and continuity. Documented access control, applicant-data protection consistent with the festival's obligations, and backup and continuity arrangements for CLS-S1 to CLS-S5, proportionate to the festival's scale.

Capability under this pillar is verified by live demonstration to the assessor on the festival's production systems, supported by export samples and architecture documentation. Source-code audit is not required; a chain the assessor cannot see working is not verified.

6.3 Pillar O — AI in the festival's own operations

An A-class AI film festival applies AI to its own work — and discloses that use under the same discipline it certifies in others:

CLS-01 · Deep operational use. Documented AI-assisted operation in at least three of the following functions: submission triage and completeness checking; multilingual access (translation or subtitling of entries, communications or programme); metadata extraction and cataloguing; provenance and synthetic-media risk screening; accessibility services (captions, audio description); scheduling and programming analytics; audience services.

CLS-02 · Human decision rule. AI use in curation is assistive only. No selection or award decision may be made by an automated system: every such decision is taken by identified natural persons, and the audit trail of CLS-S3 shows it. A festival whose selection is automated fails this pillar regardless of any other capability.

CLS-03 · Operational self-disclosure. The festival publishes, per edition, an operational AI disclosure in the machine-readable template of the catalogue: which systems it used, in which functions, at which level of involvement. The federation that requires disclosure of others' AI use requires the same of festivals about their own operations.

CLS-04 · Correction. Errors arising from AI-assisted operations (mis-triage, faulty metadata, wrong subtitles) are handled under a published correction process aligned with the 30-day clock of AIFD-STD-PRO-001, with affected applicants notified.

6.4 Pillar E — Ecosystem service capability

An A-class festival is a working node of the AI-film economy: works do not only screen there; they meet buyers, distribution and finance there, with their evidence chain intact. The festival shall operate both mandatory services and at least two of the four menu services:

Mandatory:

CLS-E1 · Industry market function. An organised industry programme within the edition — market screenings, curated buyer showcases or pitch and roadshow sessions — with at least 100 accredited industry participants (buyers, platforms, distributors, financiers) and at least 30 logged business meetings arranged through the festival's systems.

CLS-E2 · Rights-transaction facilitation. A rights catalogue, available to accredited buyers, for participating works whose rights-holders opt in: rights-holder contact, licensing status and territory availability, with each entry carrying the work's AIFD disclosure record. A post-market report publishing aggregate activity (participants, meetings, expressions of interest) is issued within 90 days of the edition.

Menu (at least two):

CLS-E3 · Distribution pathway. A festival-run or partnered release window for selected works — touring programme, platform showcase or streaming collection — under written rights-holder consent with terms disclosed to participants.

CLS-E4 · Touring and roadshow. Presentation of selected works, under licence, in at least two further cities, venues or partner festivals after the edition.

CLS-E5 · Co-production and financing forum. A projects-in-development programme connecting registered producers with financiers or platforms, with recorded participation.

CLS-E6 · Talent development. Labs, masterclasses or residencies for AI filmmakers, delivered with named industry or institutional partners, with published outcomes.

CLS-E7 · Provenance-preserving commerce (applies to all of the above). Every market, distribution or licensing activity under this pillar keeps the work's disclosure record and provenance manifest attached: licence and catalogue records reference the work's AIFD identifiers. The chain of evidence does not break at the point of sale.

6.5 Pillar R — Scale and reach

Only after capability comes scale. For the verification window the festival shall evidence:

CLS-R1 · Submission reach. At least 2,000 eligible works submitted, originating from more than 40 countries or territories.

CLS-R2 · International selection. At least 40 % of selected works produced outside the host country.

CLS-R3 · Professional participation. At least 250 accredited industry professionals and at least 40 accredited media representatives (print, broadcast or online) in attendance under the edition's delivery mode.

CLS-R4 · Public reach. For physical editions, at least 5,000 verified admissions with mean screening occupancy of at least 55 %; for online editions, at least 50,000 verified unique viewers; for hybrid editions, the combined measure published in the assessment rules.

CLS-R5 · Disclosure coverage. Structured disclosure captured at intake for 100 % of submitted works (CLS-S1), and verified disclosure records for 100 % of selected works.

CLS-R6 · Selection transparency. Published selection statistics for the edition: submissions, selections, acceptance rate, and fee and fee-waiver statistics.

CLS-R7 · Public accountability in force. The jury conflicts register published for the edition, and the independent complaints and appeals channel of AIFD-STD-REV-001 operational throughout it, with outcomes in the annual aggregate.

The scale thresholds are set for AI-film practice, not imported from legacy festivals: submission volumes reflect digital-first global intake (2,000 works), while physical-admission thresholds are lower and online-viewer thresholds higher than traditional equivalents, weighting verified digital reach. Thresholds are reviewed after each full award cycle under Annex B.

6.6 Assessment

Assessment shall comprise: documentary verification of every requirement; data verification against the operator's systems and published figures; live demonstration of Pillar S and, where relied on, Pillar O capabilities on production systems; sampling where totals cannot otherwise be verified; and observation of an edition where the assessment rules so provide. The assessor reports pillar by pillar, requirement by requirement; the two-officer decision of clause 4.5 follows.

6.7 Annual review

A festival holding Class A shall undergo an annual standards review: once in each calendar year, and no later than 90 days after the close of an edition falling in that year, it files review data covering all five pillars, which the federation verifies by the methods of clause 6.6 (including a fresh Pillar S demonstration at least every third review or on material change of systems, control or scale). A review that records any requirement as unmet makes that year a non-conforming year: the shortfalls are notified in writing, and clause 8.3 governs what follows. The class remains in force throughout the review cycle.

7 Class A — responsible AI production organisations (AIFD-PRO-ORG)

7.1 Eligibility gate

An applicant shall: (a) hold Certified status for at least 12 months; (b) have had no suspension or upheld adverse finding in the preceding 24 months; and (c) have met every correction clock applicable to it under AIFD-STD-PRO-001 during that period.

7.2 Requirements

CLS-P1 · Sustained output under disclosure. At least 5 completed productions in the verification window, each with a complete disclosure record under AIFD-STD-PRO-001.

CLS-P2 · External audit. An annual independent external audit of the production controls certified under the scheme, by an auditor free of conflicts under AIFD-STD-REV-001, with findings and closures available to the assessor.

CLS-P3 · Provenance by default. Provenance manifests (C2PA or equivalent) attached to 100 % of finished deliveries in the window.

CLS-P4 · Trained personnel. Documented disclosure-and-rights training covering at least 90 % of production staff in role during the window.

CLS-P5 · Correction discipline. An incident and correction log showing at least 95 % of corrections closed within the 30-day clock of AIFD-STD-PRO-001.

CLS-P6 · Public disclosure practice. At least two disclosure records per year published, or made available on request to any recipient scheme, in the machine-readable template of the AIFD catalogue.

7.3 Assessment and annual review

Clause 6.6 applies with the necessary changes, including live demonstration of the organisation's disclosure and provenance tooling. The annual review of clause 6.7 applies likewise, filed on the anniversary of the award; clause 8.3 governs cancellation after two consecutive non-conforming years.

8 Award, downgrade, withdrawal

8.1 Award

On a positive two-officer decision the class is recorded in the register with its effective date, and subsequent certificates carry the wording of clause 5. The operator receives written confirmation of the verified requirements.

8.2 Effect of baseline events

The class cannot outlive its baseline. Suspension of accreditation or certification suspends the class; revocation, expiry or withdrawal of the baseline extinguishes it. Reinstatement of the baseline does not by itself reinstate the class: clause 8.4 applies.

8.3 Cancellation after two consecutive non-conforming years

A single non-conforming year does not end the class: the shortfalls are recorded in the entry's history, the operator is notified in writing, and the class continues. Where the annual reviews of two consecutive years each record non-conformity, two officers shall cancel the class, with written reasons. A conforming review resets the count. Cancellation is a return to the baseline designation — not an adverse finding against the baseline — is recorded in the entry's permanent history, and is appealable under AIFD-STD-REV-001.

8.4 Reinstatement

An operator whose class was removed or extinguished may reapply at any time and is assessed against the current edition of this standard. No waiting period applies beyond the eligibility gates of clauses 6.1 and 7.1.

9 Use of the designation

9.1 Permitted statements

A current Class A holder may state the designation with its scheme and, for festivals, its edition; may reproduce its register entry and certificate; and may use the designation wording beside the federation marks in accordance with the marks' use rules.

9.2 Required form

For festivals the designation shall be stated in the form "IFAIFPA Class A Accredited" or "ACCREDITED · CLASS A" together with the AIFD identifier. For production organisations: "IFAIFPA Class A Certified" or "CERTIFIED · CLASS A" with the identifier. The identifier's register entry is the authoritative statement of currency.

9.3 Prohibited use

The designation shall not be presented as a prize, a ranking, or a statement about artistic quality; shall not be used comparatively against named operators ("better than..."); shall not be stated for an edition, period or entity to which it does not attach; and shall not be used after suspension, downgrade or extinction. Misuse is misrepresentation under the terms of use and grounds for action under AIFD-STD-REV-001, up to revocation of the baseline designation.

Annex A Requirement evidence matrix (normative)

REQ.	THRESHOLD / TEST	EVIDENCE	VERIFICATION
CLS-S1	100 % of submissions with structured disclosure + hash at intake	Intake schema; export sample	Live demo; sampling
CLS-S2	Pipeline validates manifests; anomalies to human queue	Pipeline logs; dispositions	Live demo; log review
CLS-S3	Complete decision audit trail; in-system conflicts	Workflow records	Live demo; sampling
CLS-S4	AIFD identifiers end-to-end; awarded records filed	Register cross-check	Register lookup
CLS-S5	5-year archive: hash, disclosure, manifest, trail	Archive listing	Hash verification
CLS-S6	Documented access, protection, continuity	Controls documentation	Review
CLS-O1	AI-assisted operation in $\geq$ 3 named functions	Operational records	Demo; review
CLS-O2	No automated selection/award decisions	CLS-S3 audit trail	Trail inspection
CLS-O3	Operational AI disclosure published per edition	URL; machine-readable record	Inspection
CLS-O4	Published correction process; 30-day clock	Process; case log	Log review
CLS-E1	$\geq$ 100 industry participants · $\geq$ 30 logged meetings	Accreditation ledger; meeting logs	Ledger totals; sampling
CLS-E2	Rights catalogue with disclosure attached; report $\leq$ 90 days	Catalogue access; report URL	Inspection

REQ.	THRESHOLD / TEST	EVIDENCE	VERIFICATION
CLS-E3-E 6	≥ 2 menu services operated	Agreements; records; outcomes	Document review
CLS-E7	Identifiers attached in all commerce records	Licence/catalogue samples	Sampling
CLS-R1	≥ 2,000 submissions · > 40 countries/territories	Intake-system export (CLS-S1)	Data verification
CLS-R2	≥ 40 % international selections	Selection list with countries	Recount
CLS-R3	≥ 250 professionals · ≥ 40 media	Accreditation ledger (categories)	Ledger totals; sampling
CLS-R4	≥ 5,000 admissions / ≥ 50,000 unique viewers · ≥ 55 % occupancy	Ticketing/platform reports	Report totals; capacities
CLS-R5	100 % submitted (intake) · 100 % selected (verified)	Disclosure identifiers	Register lookup
CLS-R6	Statistics published for the edition	URL	Inspection
CLS-R7	Conflicts register public; appeals operational	URL; channel records	Inspection; review
CLS-P1	≥ 5 productions / 24 months	Disclosure records	Register lookup
CLS-P2	Annual external audit	Audit report; closures	Report review
CLS-P3	100 % of deliveries	Manifest hashes	Hash verification
CLS-P4	≥ 90 % of production staff	Training register (roles)	Totals; sampling
CLS-P5	≥ 95 % within 30 days	Incident/correction log	Log review
CLS-P6	≥ 2 records/year	Published or furnished records	Inspection

Evidence is furnished under the confidentiality and retention rules of the scheme concerned. Personal data beyond what a requirement strictly needs shall not be collected for class assessment.

Annex B Transition (informative)

The first application window under this edition opened on 2 March 2026. No class is awarded automatically: every Accredited or Certified operator keeps its baseline designation unchanged and may apply when it meets the eligibility gate. An operator may state a class only from the effective date of its award as recorded in the register. Thresholds in Annex A — including the scale thresholds of clause 6.5 — are reviewed after each full award cycle and revised, if at all, by a numbered edition of this standard.

Annex R Revision history

EDITIO N	ADOPTED	PRINCIPAL CHANGES
1.0	2024-12-09	First edition: two-level architecture — Class A over the baseline; initial festival requirements and scale indicators.
2.0	2025-02-27	Full-chain system capability made a normative pillar; live-demonstration verification introduced.
3.0	2025-05-23	Ecosystem service capability added: market function, rights-transaction facilitation, provenance-preserving commerce.
3.1	2025-07-04	Editorial revision.
4.0	2025-09-19	AI-in-own-operations pillar added, with the human-decision rule and operational self-disclosure.
5.0	2025-11-28	Production-organisation Class A requirements consolidated; downgrade and reinstatement lifecycle completed.
5.5	2026-01-16	Amendments 5.1–5.5 adopted as one consolidated publication: continuous validity with annual review (cancellation only after two consecutive non-conforming years); five-pillar order fixed; consecutive-edition requirement removed; scale thresholds recalibrated digital-first; Annex A evidence matrix consolidated; transition annex.

Bibliography (informative)

ISO/IEC 17065 — principles for bodies certifying products, processes and services (methodological inspiration; no conformity claimed).

The AIFD catalogue: AIFD-STD-DEF-001, -PRO-001, -RGT-001, -FES-001, -REV-001 (current editions).

Bibliographic entries situate this standard in its regulatory and technical landscape. They are informative only and create no requirement.