

ODA3 INSTITUTE

ADOPTION GUIDE

Mapping GAISSF™ to ISO/IEC 42001

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Executive Summary

Organizations already certified or working toward ISO/IEC 42001 often ask the same question before adopting GAISSTM: does this mean starting over? This guide answers that directly. It is not a control-by-control crosswalk — it is a structural orientation showing where ISO/IEC 42001 and GAISSTM address related concerns differently, where GAISSTM may add control or evidence granularity, and what should be examined through a formal crosswalk.

METHODOLOGY NOTE

This guide is introductory and conceptual. It contains no client outcome data, no proprietary telemetry, and no incident statistics. It does not constitute a formal conformance mapping or certification determination. Reference baseline: ISO/IEC 42001:2023, Edition 1, published December 2023. As verified on 12 August 2026, ISO lists this edition as published and under systematic review. This guide should be revalidated against any amendment, revision, or superseding edition.

1. Why This Comparison Matters

ISO/IEC 42001 is a certifiable management-system standard for AI (an AI Management System, or AIMS). It follows ISO's Harmonized Structure for management-system standards (commonly associated with Annex SL): clauses 4–10 cover organizational context, leadership, planning, support, operation, performance evaluation, and improvement, while Annex A provides a reference set of controls organized into control objectives, with Annex B giving implementation guidance. The management-system process determines the controls necessary for risk treatment, with the Statement of Applicability documenting the applicable Annex A controls and the justification for inclusion or exclusion. GAISSTM uses a control-based architecture: 9 domains and a published architecture comprising 52 foundational controls, with explicit evidence expectations, designed to complement and be mapped against frameworks like ISO/IEC 42001 rather than replace them.

The objective of this guide is to identify where existing management-system work may support GAISSTM requirements, where the two frameworks address related concerns differently, and what a formal crosswalk should examine for correspondence, gaps, and potential reuse.

2. Structural Comparison

Aspect	ISO/IEC 42001	GAISSTM
Structure	Clauses 4–10 (management system) plus Annex A controls/objectives, Annex B guidance	9 domains, 52 foundational controls
Orientation	Certifiable management-system requirements at a control-objective level	Control requirements, implementation, assurance evidence
Evidence model	Documented information required across the AIMS as applicable; form is context-dependent	Explicit control-linked evidence expectations
Conformance / assurance model	Voluntary third-party certification by an independent body; ISO does not itself certify	Defined conformance architecture; Appendix P.1 profile where appropriate

ODA3 Institute's own assessment and certification infrastructure is under development; conformance claims for GAISSTTM should be read against that status.

3. What Your ISO/IEC 42001 Work May Provide → Where There Is Clear Conceptual Correspondence → Where GAISSTTM May Add Depth

What your existing ISO/IEC 42001 work may provide

Existing ISO/IEC 42001 implementation may provide AI policy and governance structures, AI risk-assessment practices, competence and documented-information processes, and a Statement of Applicability. The extent to which these support GAISSTTM requirements must be verified for the system and scope being examined.

Where there is clear conceptual correspondence

GAISSTTM D6 and ISO/IEC 42001's leadership, policy, roles, accountability, and governance requirements address related organizational-governance concerns. ISO/IEC 42001's risk-assessment and risk-treatment mechanisms relate conceptually to aspects of GAISSTTM scoping and applicability. The relationship is conceptual and does not establish one-to-one control equivalence — correspondence at the Annex A control-to-GAISST control level requires a formal crosswalk.

Where GAISSTTM may add depth

- GAISSTTM organizes model integrity, runtime security, agentic risk, and AI supply-chain security into dedicated control domains (D1–D4). ISO/IEC 42001's Annex A controls are expressed at a management-system/control-objective level rather than as a detailed technical-security control catalogue; a formal crosswalk is required to determine the degree of coverage for any specific GAISSTTM control.
- GAISSTTM links its control architecture to identifiable implementation evidence and assurance expectations. ISO/IEC 42001 requires documented information and evaluation within the AIMS, while the form and depth of technical implementation evidence remain context-dependent. GAISSTTM makes control-linked evidence expectations more explicit within its own assurance architecture.
- Appendix P.1 SMB Quick-Start, a defined GAISSTTM conformance-profile entry point, where applicable — distinct from, and not directly equivalent to, ISO/IEC 42001's Statement of Applicability scoping mechanism.

KEY PRINCIPLE

Assurance is demonstrated, not asserted. A control claim is only as credible as the evidence supporting its implementation and operation. GAISSTTM applies that principle through a control-and-evidence architecture that can complement an organization's existing ISO/IEC 42001 management system.

4. Areas to Examine in a Formal Crosswalk

A formal crosswalk should examine, rather than assume, the degree to which existing ISO/IEC 42001 requirements and documented information support GAISSTTM requirements. The examination should include, where applicable: the traceability and sufficiency of technical implementation evidence; model and runtime security; agentic-system controls; AI supply-chain controls; and correspondence between AIMS artifacts and specific GAISSTTM requirements.

5. Recommended Next Action

- 1. Identify one AI system already within your ISO/IEC 42001 AIMS scope.
- 2. Document the applicable AIMS requirements, Annex A controls, and related practices implemented for that system, including the basis recorded in the Statement of Applicability.
- 3. Determine the appropriate GAISSF™ scope or profile independently, using GAISSF™ scoping rules.
- 4. Compare existing ISO/IEC 42001-derived practices and documented information against the applicable GAISSF™ requirements.
- 5. Record supported correspondence, partial correspondence, gaps, and unknowns — rather than assuming equivalence.
- 6. Use the eventual formal GAISSF™–ISO/IEC 42001 crosswalk when available.

NOTABLY ABSENT

This guide does not establish control equivalence, coverage percentage, conformance inheritance, regulatory equivalence, or certification credit between ISO/IEC 42001 and GAISSF™. It is not a control-by-control crosswalk or formal assessment methodology. Any claimed correspondence must be verified at the applicable Annex A control and GAISSF™ control level. ISO publishes ISO/IEC 42001 but does not certify organizations; certification, where pursued, is performed by independent certification bodies.

The Relationship at a Glance

- ISO/IEC 42001 — Plan-Do-Check-Act AIMS → management-system requirements, governance processes, documented information, risk treatment, and Statement of Applicability.
- GAISSF™ — applicable domain/control scope → control requirements, implementation evidence, and assurance expectations.

Correspondence between the two must be established at the Annex-A-control-to-GAISSF-control level — it is tested, not declared.

Next Reading

- The 10-Minute Introduction to GAISSF™
- GAISSF™ Appendix P.1 SMB Quick-Start Guide
- Mapping GAISSF to NIST AI RMF
- Mapping GAISSF to SOC 2

GAISSF™, UAIF™, AI-IRF™, and PAI-SF™ are frameworks of ODA3 Institute, referenced under the GAISSF Ecosystem License (GEL) v1.0.