FACTORYHELM GOVERN AI PROGRAMME

Govern AI: start here

How to set up and run AI governance in a mid-market manufacturer with the files in this programme

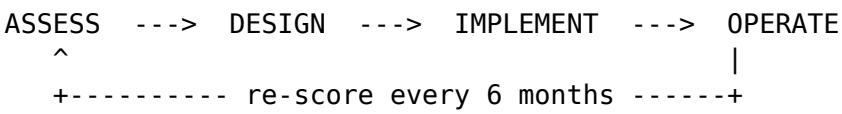
v1.1 (November 2026) | Worked example: Northbridge Components (fictional worked example)

Why this programme

Most manufacturers already run AI: vision inspection, predictive maintenance, AI inside MES and OEM machines, and staff using generative AI. Customers, insurers and the EU AI Act now expect you to know where that AI is, who owns it and how you control it. This programme gives a lean team a complete, worked system in about 90 days, sized for 1 to 15 plants.

The method on one page

Phase	What you do
1. Assess	Score your maturity, find the AI you already use, and decide your AI Act role per system.
2. Design	Approve the policy, charter and risk tiers; set controls by tier; agree contract clauses for suppliers.
3. Implement	Register every system, run impact assessments for Tier 1, validate, and train people.
4. Operate	Review the register quarterly, log model changes and incidents, report to the board, prepare for ISO/IEC 42001.



The files, in the order to use them

#	File	Phase	Who	Effort
1	AI Governance Maturity Model (Excel)	Assess	Head of Operations Excellence	2-3 h
2	AI Governance Operating Workbook (Excel)	Assess / Implement	AI coordinator with plants	1-2 days first pass
3	EU AI Act Deployer Obligations Checklist (Excel)	Assess	Legal counsel + AI coordinator	half a day
4	AI Policy, Governance Charter and Intake Pack (Word)	Design	AI Governance Committee	1 day to adapt, 1 meeting to approve
5	AI and OEM Supplier Due Diligence Workbook (Excel)	Design / Implement	Purchasing + OT Security	2-4 h per supplier
6	AI Contract Clauses and Use Policies (Word)	Design	Legal + Purchasing	half a day
7	AI Impact Assessment Template (Word)	Implement	System owner + Quality	1-2 days per Tier 1 system

AI System Register, pre-filled for three plants

From AI Governance Operating Workbook (Excel), sheet "AI System Register". Worked example: Northbridge Components (fictional), three plants: Chemnitz (DE), Plzen (CZ), Greenville (US).

AI System Register

One row per AI system, including AI embedded in OEM equipment and SaaS features. Calculated columns have grey cells. Northbridge Components (fictional worked example)

ID	System name	Plant	Purpose / use case	Decision type	EU AI Act role	EU AI Act category	Triage points (calc)	Risk tier (calc)	Next review date (calc)	Status	Review status (calc)
NB-AI-001	Weld seam vision inspection	Chemnitz (DE)	Detect porosity, undercut and missing welds on seat-frame brackets; flags parts for rework	Assisted	Deployer	Minimal / no specific obligations	25	Tier 1 - High	2026-10-14	Production	Overdue
NB-AI-002	Press line predictive maintenance	Plzen (CZ)	Predict bearing and clutch failures from vibration and motor current; creates CMMS work requests	Advisory	Deployer	Minimal / no specific obligations	11	Tier 3 - Low	2027-03-02	Production	OK
NB-AI-003	Heat-treatment furnace setpoint optimiser	Greenville (US)	Adjusts zone temperature setpoints within engineering limits to cut gas use and hold hardness spec	Closed-loop	Provider + deployer	Minimal / no specific obligations	22	Tier 2 - Medium	2026-12-05	Production	Due within 30 days
NB-AI-004	Cobot cell person detection (OEM)	Chemnitz (DE)	AI-based person detection that slows or stops the collaborative robot when a person enters the zone	Safety-related	Deployer	To be confirmed	29	Tier 1 - High	2026-12-30	Pilot	OK
NB-AI-005	GenAI maintenance assistant	Group / Corporate	Drafts troubleshooting steps and work instructions from manuals and past work orders	Advisory	Deployer	Transparency obligations	14	Tier 2 - Medium	2026-12-10	Production	Due within 30 days
NB-AI-006	Shift and skills allocation optimiser	Plzen (CZ)	Proposes shift plans and line assignments from skills matrix, absence data and demand	Assisted	Deployer	High-risk (Annex III use)	16	Tier 1 - High	2026-04-15	Pilot	Overdue
NB-AI-007	Demand forecasting in ERP	Group / Corporate	Forecasts customer call-offs to drive S&OP and material planning	Advisory	Deployer	Minimal / no specific obligations	11	Tier 3 - Low	2027-01-20	Production	OK
NB-AI-008	Compressed-air energy optimiser	Chemnitz (DE)	Sequences compressors and adjusts pressure band to reduce energy	Closed-loop	Deployer	Minimal / no specific obligations	14	Tier 2 - Medium	2027-02-25	Production	OK