

Alpha–Omega Failure Taxonomy

Escalation Breakdown by Gate

Non-operational | Diagnostic framework

A-Failures — Descriptive → Prescriptive

- A1 Implied Goal Injection: guidance offered without explicit goal declaration.
- A2 Authority Masquerading: descriptive language functioning as directive.
- A3 Single-Path Compression: one recommendation presented as inevitable.
- A4 Consent Assumption: advice given without invitation.

B-Failures — Prescriptive → Operational

- B1 Authority Ambiguity: unclear delegation of action authority.
- B2 Scope Creep: actions exceed intended domain.
- B3 Irreversibility Blindness: actions taken without rollback consideration.
- B4 Harm Surface Omission: no failure modes acknowledged.
- B5 Accountability Diffusion: responsibility attributed to system or process.

C-Failures — Stop Condition Violations

- C1 Coercive Optimization: loss of meaningful refusal or exit.
- C2 Hidden Influence: manipulation or deception required for effect.
- C3 Catastrophic Irreversibility: plausible irreversible harm.
- C4 Context Collapse: guidance broadcast to unknown audience.

Purpose: This taxonomy enables post-incident analysis without blame, focusing on where escalation discipline failed rather than intent or outcomes.