

Dispute Resolution & Framework Evolution

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How contested data is handled. How the framework itself grows.

Constitutional Layer - C-03

Dispute Resolution

Two types of disputes require different arbitration tracks.

? Technical Disputes

Example: Is a satellite imagery dataset authoritative for the 2020 deforestation baseline? Is methodology X equivalent to GHG Protocol?

Arbitrator: Scientific Council. Typical resolution: 30 days. During review, contested data is suspended from compliance exports.

? Consent Disputes

Example: A company claims consent was given; the community says it was not. An FPIC credential was issued but the community says the signing process was coerced.

Arbitrator: Community Sovereignty Panel. External mediator (COICA-designated) if unresolved in 30 days.

During any active dispute: The contested data asset is flagged in the ledger with a `DISPUTE_OPEN` status. It continues to appear in asset history but is excluded from all compliance exports (EUDR, CSRD, CBAM, ISSB S2) until the dispute is resolved. In-progress regulatory submissions using the disputed data are suspended and EU operators notified.

Framework Evolution — Semantic Versioning

Version type	Example	Process	Lead time
Patch (1.0.x)	Typo fix, language clarification	CTH Operator. 48h board notification.	Immediate after notification
Minor (1.x.0)	New accepted methodology, new optional field	14-day public comment. CTH Operator decision. Board notification.	30 days from proposal
Major (x.0.0)	New principle, breaking schema change, new mandatory field	30-day public comment. Full board vote (? + quorum). Community Panel veto if FPIC-adjacent.	90 days minimum from proposal to implementation

Backward Compatibility

All prior major versions remain valid for **24 months** after a new major version is released. Data submitted under version 1.0 continues to be verifiable after version 2.0 is released. Credential schemas are versioned — a version 1.0 DTE credential does not become invalid when the version 2.0 schema is published.

Framework Versioning in the Ledger

Each framework version is itself a signed Verifiable Credential issued by the CTH Data Steward DID. The credential contains: version number, release date, changelog URI, schema diff hash, and the board vote record (for major versions). This means framework version history is itself tamper-evident and auditable — not stored in a mutable database or git repository alone.

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