

CWS-002 — Incident Classification & Severity Levels

Normative Module

Meta

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Scope

This module defines the classification and severity levels applicable to Incidents and Near-Misses under the CWS framework.

It establishes a standardized method for identifying, categorizing, and grading the severity of events involving dogs, independently of cause, intent, or outcome management.

Incident vs Near-Miss

Under the CWS framework, Incidents and Near-Misses shall be classified separately but documented with equal rigor.

The absence of harm does not reduce the relevance of a Near-Miss when evaluating Risk, Exposure, or Conformance.

Severity Levels

Severity Level S0 — No Incident

S0 — No Incident

A documented situation in which no Incident or Near-Miss has occurred, but where monitoring or observation has been conducted for traceability or preventive assessment purposes.

Severity Level S1 — Near-Miss

S1 — Near-Miss

A documented Near-Miss involving one or more dogs, with no physical harm or injury, but demonstrating a credible potential to escalate into an Incident under slightly different conditions.

Severity Level S2 — Minor Incident

S2 — Minor Incident

An Incident resulting in minor physical harm, brief distress, or limited adverse impact, not requiring significant medical, veterinary, or external intervention.

Severity Level S3 — Serious Incident

S3 — Serious Incident

An Incident resulting in significant physical injury, sustained distress, escape, or damage requiring veterinary, medical, legal, or external professional intervention.

Severity Level S4 — Critical Incident

S4 — Critical Incident

An Incident resulting in severe injury, fatality, permanent impairment, or outcomes with major legal, regulatory, or reputational consequences.

Incident Categories

Behavioral Aggression

Behavioral Aggression

Any Incident or Near-Miss involving aggressive behavior by a dog directed toward humans, other animals, or dogs, regardless of outcome.

Intra-Species Conflict

Intra-Species Conflict

Any Incident or Near-Miss involving conflict, escalation, or physical interaction between dogs.

Escape / Loss of Control

Escape / Loss of Control

Any Incident or Near-Miss involving the escape of a dog, loss of physical control, or unauthorized access to uncontrolled environments.

Stress-Induced Incident

Stress-Induced Incident

Any Incident or Near-Miss primarily associated with acute or chronic stress responses resulting in unsafe or adverse outcomes.

Environmental Hazard

Environmental Hazard

Any Incident or Near-Miss involving physical infrastructure, equipment, confinement conditions, or environmental factors contributing to risk.

Human Interaction Incident

Human Interaction Incident

Any Incident or Near-Miss arising from interaction between a dog and a human, excluding intentional acts of abuse.

Health-Related Incident

Health-Related Incident

Any Incident or Near-Miss in which underlying medical or physiological conditions contribute to risk or adverse outcomes.

Escalation Rules

Escalation Principle

Escalation Principle

Under the CWS framework, escalation of severity classification shall follow a documented and coherent progression based on observed events, accumulated Risk, and Exposure over time.

Non-Linear Escalation Prohibition

Non-Linear Escalation Prohibition

Direct escalation from lower Severity Levels to higher Severity Levels without documented intermediate events, Near-Misses, or Risk Factors constitutes a Non-Conformance, except in cases of sudden, unforeseeable Critical Incidents.

Accumulation Rule

Accumulation Rule

Repeated Near-Misses or Minor Incidents within a defined timeframe shall be considered cumulatively when evaluating escalation, Risk, and Exposure.

Contextual Consistency Rule

Contextual Consistency Rule

Escalation decisions shall be consistent with the documented Environment, Density, Compatibility, and operational context in which events occurred.

Documentation Dependency Rule

Documentation Dependency Rule

Escalation of Severity Levels shall not be considered valid in the absence of documented evidence supporting the classification and progression.

Documentation Requirements

Minimum Documentation Requirement

Minimum Documentation Requirement

Any Incident or Near-Miss classified under the CWS framework shall be documented in a consistent, retrievable, and verifiable manner.

Mandatory Data Elements

Mandatory Data Elements

Documentation shall include, at minimum, the date, time, location, Severity Level, Incident Category, involved dogs, and the Environment in which the event occurred.

Traceability Requirement

Traceability Requirement

All documentation related to Incidents, Near-Misses, escalation decisions, and Risk assessments shall be retained to ensure traceability over time.

Absence of Documentation Rule

Absence of Documentation Rule

Any Incident, Near-Miss, or escalation decision lacking sufficient documentation shall be treated as a Non-Conformance under the CWS framework.

Link to Conformance Levels

Impact on Conformance

Impact on Conformance

The classification, frequency, severity, and escalation of Incidents and Near-Misses directly impact the Conformance Level of a structure under the CWS framework.

Threshold Dependency

Threshold Dependency

Defined Thresholds associated with Severity Levels, Incident Categories, and escalation patterns shall determine eligibility for CWS-1, CWS-2, or CWS-3 Conformance Levels.

Systemic Evaluation Principle

Systemic Evaluation Principle

Conformance evaluation shall consider patterns, recurrence, and systemic risk rather than isolated events.