

**To:** All Engineering and Development Staff

**From:** [Legal/Compliance Department]

**Date:** [Insert Date]

**Subject:** ADVISORY: Open Source Contamination Policy and Developer Guidelines

Dear Developer,

This letter serves as a formal advisory regarding our updated policies on Open Source Software (OSS) usage and the prevention of intellectual property "contamination." As we integrate third-party code into our proprietary products, it is critical to adhere to the following guidelines to protect our legal interests and commercial software integrity.

## 1. Definition of Contamination

Contamination occurs when "Copyleft" licensed code (such as GPL or AGPL) is integrated into our proprietary codebase in a manner that legally mandates the public release of our source code. To avoid this, all developers must strictly follow the approval workflows before merging external libraries.

## 2. Prohibited Licenses

Unless explicit written permission is granted by the Legal Department, the use of software under the following licenses is strictly prohibited in any commercial product:

- GNU General Public License (GPL) v2/v3
- GNU Affero General Public License (AGPL)
- GNU Lesser General Public License (LGPL) - when statically linked

## 3. Permissible Licenses

Code under "Permissive" licenses is generally allowed but still requires documentation for attribution purposes:

- MIT License
- Apache License 2.0
- BSD 2-Clause/3-Clause

## 4. Developer Requirements

- **Inventory:** Maintain an accurate Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) for every project.
- **Vetting:** Submit a request via the [Internal Portal Name] before adding any new dependency.

- **Isolation:** Keep third-party code in designated directories and do not remove original copyright notices.
- **AI Tools:** Do not paste proprietary code into public AI models, as this may result in data leakage or unintended licensing claims.

Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in significant legal liability for the company and internal disciplinary action.

Please acknowledge receipt of this advisory by replying to this email or signing through the [Compliance System Name].

Regards,

[Name/Signature]

[Title]

[Company Name]