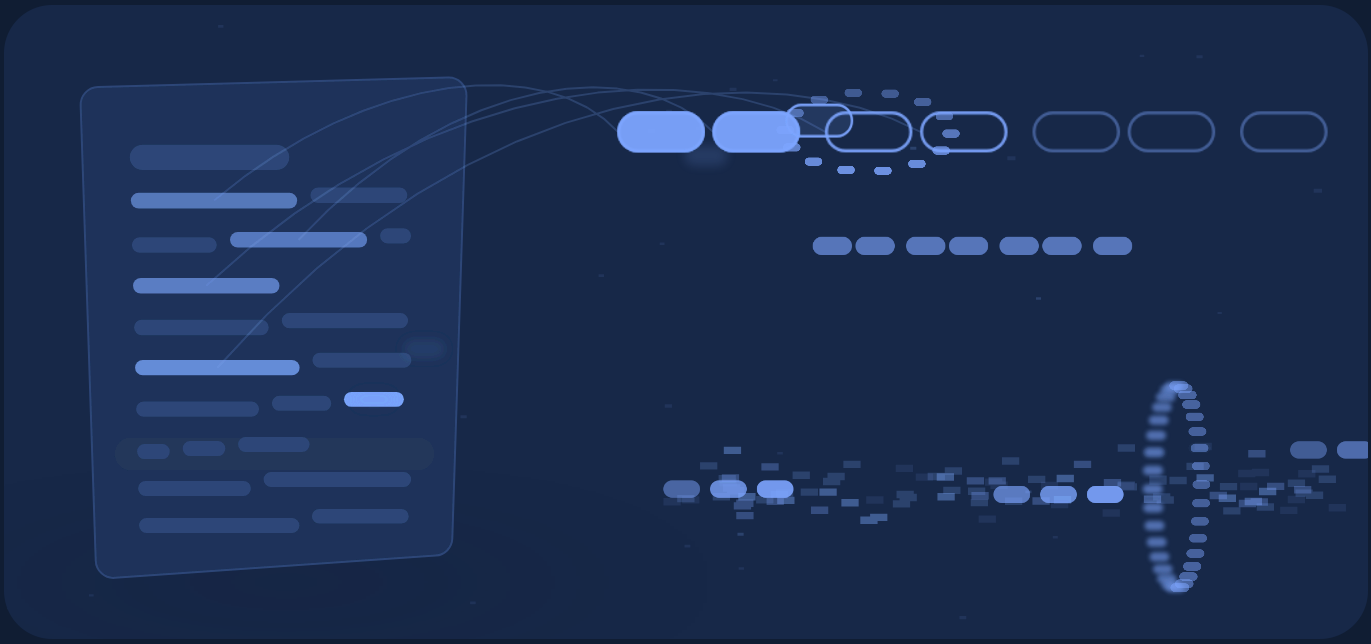
Rillor

EXPLAINER

SI and Executive Order 14434: what the order changes

What superintelligence (SI) means under Executive Order 14434, who the order binds, what it leaves as written and how federal documents used the new term after 2 October 2026.



Rillor

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Summary

Executive Order 14434 tells the U.S. executive branch to say superintelligence (SI), written "Super Intelligence" in the order, for the systems that 15 U.S.C. 9401(3) already defines, and leaves that statute and the set of systems it covers as they were [1, 2, 3].

- Executive Order 14434 was signed on 29 September 2026 and published at 91 FR 63129 on 2 October 2026 [1, 4]. It directs agencies to say superintelligence (SI), written "Super Intelligence" and "SI" in the order, in place of "Artificial Intelligence" and "AI" in official correspondence, public communications, websites, reports, policy documents and other non-statutory documents [1, 4].
- Sec. 3(a) of the order defines SI as the technologies and systems covered by the statutory definition at 15 U.S.C. 9401(3). That definition covers machine-based systems that make predictions, recommendations or decisions for human-defined objectives and names no level of ability, so the label changes while the covered set stays the same [1, 2].
- Executive Order 14434 binds the executive branch only. It creates no right enforceable at law, imposes no obligation on private parties and does not require earlier regulations, Presidential actions, contracts or grants to be altered [1, 3].
- In the Federal Register from 2 October to 6 November 2026, 16 documents contained "super intelligence", against none in the 36 days before [5, 6]. Over the same weeks 35 documents contained the term the order replaces, against 33 before [7, 8], and 9 contained both (computed for this report from [5, 7]).
- Agencies map "Super Intelligence" to the term it replaces in footnotes and give a renamed office its old name in parentheses. The Department of Education proposes renamed priorities, and Treasury proposes a defined "SI system" for its own rules. A section of the Code of Federal Regulations dated 5 November 2026 still carries the term the order replaces in its heading [9, 10, 11, 12, 13].
- "SI" already abbreviates other things in federal text, among them a payment status indicator in a Medicare payment rule and the International System of Units. A Department of Education notice cites the order four times as "E.O. 14344", a different order, while its Federal Register citation is right [9, 11, 14, 15].
- Sec. 3(b) of the order gives the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology 60 days, to 28 November 2026 (computed for this report), to send the President proposed legislative language for a Federal definition of SI. Only Congress can change the statutory definition [1, 3].

Background

Executive orders are "official documents, numbered consecutively, through which the President of the United States manages the operations of the Federal Government" [16]. To have legal effect, the Congressional Research Service notes, their directives must rest on Article II of the Constitution or on a delegation of power from Congress [17]. Executive Order 14434, "Inaugurating the Era of Super Intelligence", has a narrow subject: the words the executive branch uses for one class of technology [1].

Sec. 1 of the order recalls that "American scientists first gave the field its name" and places the present "Seventy years later" [1]. The name appears in a proposal dated 31 August 1955 for a two-month study at Dartmouth College in the summer of 1956 [18]. Sec. 1 argues that "the term 'Super Intelligence' more appropriately captures the promise, potential, and rapidly advancing capabilities of these technologies" [1]. The White House fact sheet of the same day describes the order as replacing the old term with "Super Intelligence" ("SI") in the executive branch [19].

Federal documents tie their terms to definitions. A footnote that maps one term to another, or a priority that adopts a statute's definition, changes what a reader has to match to find every document about the same systems. This report is for people who read, search, extract or map U.S. federal documents. It reads the order section by section, sets its SI beside superintelligence as researchers and dictionaries use the word, and records how agencies used the two terms in the first five weeks after publication.

Method

What was examined. The order in the Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents and in the Federal Register, with the rules that govern those editions [1, 4, 20, 21]. The statute the order points to and a statutory office name [2, 22]. Research and dictionary definitions [23, 24]. Federal Register documents from 27 August to 6 November 2026, the current Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) through the eCFR, the federal web pages named in Finding 8 and two law firm notes [3, 25].

Queries. On 7 November 2026 the Federal Register API's document search was run for "super intelligence" and for the statute's term, each in two windows of 36 days: 27 August to 1 October 2026, before the order's publication, and 2 October to 6 November 2026, from it [5, 6, 7, 8]. Friday 6 November is the last issue in the second window [5, 7]. The result lists were compared by document number. The same API was asked for executive orders published since 20 January 2025 that contain the statute's term [26]. The eCFR search API was asked for counts of the statute's term on three dates and by CFR title, and of "super intelligence" [27, 28, 29, 30, 31].

Reading. The order's two editions were compared in full. Agency documents found by the queries were read for how they use each term, and phrase counts in one document come from its text. Figures labelled "computed for this report" come from these queries and counts.

Wording. This report quotes the order and the statute in their own words. Elsewhere it writes "the statute's term" or "the old term" for the phrase the order replaces, in brackets inside quotes from other sources. Dates are UTC calendar dates. All sources were opened on 7 November 2026.

Findings

1. Two official editions and an unofficial copy

The order appears in the Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents as DCPD-202600656, dated 29 September 2026 [1]. GovInfo calls the Compilation "the official publication of materials released by the White House Press Secretary", published by the Office of the Federal Register under the Federal Register Act [21]. The same text appears in the Federal Register of Friday 2 October 2026 at 91 FR 63129-63130, as FR Doc. 2026-20321, filed at 11:15 a.m. on 1 October 2026 [4]. The two editions match word for word (compared in full for this report) [1, 4].

FederalRegister.gov carries the order with a legal status note: the site "is not an official legal edition of the Federal Register, and does not replace the official print version or the official electronic version on GPO's govinfo.gov" [20]. Its API record gives the citation "91 FR 63129", executive order number 14434, signing date 2026-09-29 and publication date 2026-10-02, with no CFR references and no effective date [32]. For citing the order, the official references are DCPD-202600656 and 91 FR 63129 [20, 21].

2. Sec. 1 and Sec. 2(a): the policy and the documents it covers

Sec. 1 states the policy in one sentence: "It is therefore the policy of my Administration that, to the maximum extent permitted by law, the executive branch shall use the terms 'Super Intelligence' and 'SI' in place of 'Artificial Intelligence' and 'AI' and will not acknowledge the usage of 'Artificial Intelligence' and 'AI' in any applicable setting" [1]. The order does not define "applicable setting" (this report's reading) [1].

Sec. 2(a) directs "executive departments and agencies (agencies)" to "use 'Super Intelligence' and 'SI' in place of 'Artificial Intelligence' and 'AI' in official correspondence, public communications, websites, reports, policy documents, and other non-statutory documents within the executive branch" [1]. Both sections say "to the maximum extent permitted by law" [1]. The list closes with "other non-statutory documents", which leaves statutory text outside it (this report's reading) [1].

The fact sheet's version of the list, "official correspondence, public communications, policy documents, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch", leaves out websites and reports, which the order includes [1, 19]. The order itself contains both terms, because it names what it replaces and points to the statute [1]. It is among the 9 documents in Finding 7 that contain both phrases [5, 7].

3. Sec. 3(a): SI is the statutory set under a new name

Sec. 3(a) reads: "For purposes of this order, and except where otherwise provided by law, the terms 'Super Intelligence' and 'SI' mean the technologies and systems encompassed by the term 'artificial intelligence' as defined in section 9401(3) of title 15, United States Code" [1]. That definition "shall govern the implementation of this order unless and until superseded by subsequent Presidential action consistent with applicable law or by an Act of Congress" [1].

The statute was enacted on 1 January 2021 in Pub. L. 116-283, in the division that "may be cited as the 'National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020'" [2]. Its definition opens: "The term 'artificial intelligence' means a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments" [2]. Such systems use machine and human-based inputs to "perceive real and virtual environments", to "abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner" and to "use model inference to formulate options for information or action" [2].

Read as text, the definition sets no level of ability (this report's reading) [2]. Under Sec. 3(a), SI covers the technologies and systems the statute's term covers. The executive branch's label changes, and the set it names stays where the statute put it. A law firm alert of 2 October 2026 reads the order the same way: it changes federal terminology, and the scope of technologies covered by federal law stays as it is until conforming statutory amendments are enacted [25].

4. Superintelligence in research and dictionaries sets a bar the order does not

In research use, the word names a level of ability. Nick Bostrom's 1998 paper defines it: "By a 'superintelligence' we mean an intellect that is much smarter than the best human brains in practically every field, including scientific creativity, general wisdom and social skills" [23]. The Cambridge Dictionary gives "a thing, for example a computer, that has a higher level of intelligence than humans" [24].

Sec. 1 of the order speaks of "rapidly advancing capabilities" [1]. Sec. 3(a) does not carry that into the definition: it ties SI to a statutory set that includes systems at any level of ability (this report's reading) [1, 2]. Sec. 3(b) asks for a later definition that "reflects the capabilities described in section 1 of this order" (Finding 9) [1].

Sense	Where it is defined	Level of ability it requires
SI under the order	Sec. 3(a) of Executive Order 14434 [1]	None beyond the statute's definition
The statute's term	15 U.S.C. 9401(3) [2]	None stated
Superintelligence in research	Bostrom, 1998 [23]	"much smarter than the best human brains in practically every field"
Superintelligence in a dictionary	Cambridge Dictionary [24]	"a higher level of intelligence than humans"

Table 1. What the same letters can mean in documents dated after 2 October 2026.

A document's own definition or citation says which sense it uses. The CMS and Education documents in Finding 7 tie the new term to the old one or to 15 U.S.C. 9401(3) directly [9, 11].

5. Who the order binds

Sec. 1 sets the policy for "the executive branch", and Sec. 2(a) directs "executive departments and agencies" [1]. Under Sec. 4, nothing in the order impairs the authority granted by law to an agency or its head, or the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative or legislative proposals [1]. The order "shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations", and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) bears the cost of publishing it [1].

Sec. 4(c) settles its effect outside the government: "This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person" [1]. A law firm note of 13 October 2026 sums up its reach: "It does not change any statute, it imposes no obligations on private parties, and it has no penalty or enforcement provision" [3].

The Congressional Research Service cites a House committee report's observation that "executive orders tend to be directed toward government officials and proclamations tend to be directed at private parties" [17].

Documents from outside the executive branch kept the old term. The Library of Congress is "An agency of the legislative branch of the U.S. government" [33]. Two Copyright Office documents published after the order, a notice of 7 October 2026 and a proposed rule of 28 October 2026, contain the statute's term and do not contain "super intelligence" (computed for this report from [5, 7]).

6. What the order leaves as written

Sec. 2(b) reads: "Nothing in this section requires the alteration of previously issued regulations, Presidential actions, contracts, grants, or other historical documents" [1]. The record after 2 October 2026 shows the old term in place in several of these kinds of text and in statutes.

- **Statutory names.** 15 U.S.C. 9412(a) directs the OSTP Director to establish or designate "an office to be known as the 'National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Office'" [22]. That name is set by statute, outside Sec. 2(a)'s "non-statutory documents" [1, 22].
- **Earlier Presidential actions.** The Federal Register lists 27 executive orders published since 20 January 2025 that contain the statute's term, the last of them EO 14434 itself [26]. Seven carry the old term or its abbreviation in their titles: EO 14179 (90 FR 8741), EO 14277 (90 FR 17519), EO 14319 (90 FR 35389), EO 14320 (90 FR 35393), EO 14355 (90 FR 48153), EO 14365 (90 FR 58499) and EO 14409 (91 FR 34565) [26].

- **Regulations.** The eCFR search API counts 41 results for the statute's term in the current CFR, which it labels changes to sections matching the phrase, and 0 for "super intelligence" [27, 31]. By title, the 41 fall in title 15 (29), title 28 (4), title 42 (3) and one each in titles 21, 26, 31, 40 and 48 [30]. The count was 40 on 1 October and on 4 November 2026 [28, 29].
- **A new section with the old term.** On 5 November 2026 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) classified the "digital cervical cytology slide imaging system with [the statute's term] algorithm into class II (special controls)", effective that day, for a classification "applicable on January 31, 2024" [34]. The eCFR shows a single version of 21 CFR 864.3900, dated 5 November 2026, with the old term in its heading [13]. FDA's order contains neither "super intelligence" nor SI (counted for this report) [34].
- **Code descriptors and titles.** A CMS payment rule of 6 November 2026 quotes a procedure code descriptor that keeps the old term, as the code's own text [9]. NIST's risk management framework page keeps the framework's published name and describes it as released on 26 January 2023 [35]. The order's own index lines on GovInfo file it under a subject heading in the old term and the category "Executive Orders : Super intelligence, efforts to rename" followed by the old term [1].

7. Agency practice in the Federal Register, 2 October to 6 November 2026

Phrase	27 August to 1 October 2026	2 October to 6 November 2026	Sources
"super intelligence"	0	16	[5, 6]
The statute's term	33	35	[7, 8]
Both phrases	0	9	computed for this report from [5, 7]

Table 2. Federal Register documents containing each phrase, by publication date.

The 16 documents with "super intelligence" are 5 notices, 4 Presidential documents with the order among them, 4 rules and 3 proposed rules [5]. The 35 with the statute's term are 19 notices, 8 proposed rules, 7 rules and the order itself, which quotes the term [7]. By document number, 9 contain both phrases, 7 only "super intelligence" and 26 only the statute's term (computed for this report from [5, 7]). Among the 26 are 2 from the Library of Congress, 4 from the Securities and Exchange Commission, 4 from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and one each from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the International Trade Commission, among others (computed for this report from [5, 7]).

A mapping footnote. In a final rule of 6 November 2026 on hospital outpatient and ambulatory surgical center payment, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) adds footnote 173: "The term 'Super Intelligence' is used herein to refer to what was formerly called [the statute's term]", citing Executive Order 14434 at 91 FR 63,129 [9]. The rule takes effect on 1 January 2027, and comments close on 4 January 2027 [9].

A footnote and a renamed office. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), in a final rule of 28 October 2026 that takes effect on 28 December 2026 (three amendatory instructions on 1 January 2027), writes "super intelligence" with a footnote to "Executive Order 14434 (September 29, 2026)" and adds "(SI)" in the same phrase [10]. It gives an office's new name with the old one in parentheses: "Office of the HHS Chief Super Intelligence Officer (previously Chief [the statute's term] Officer)" [10]. Practice differs inside one department: 4 HHS documents in the window contain only the statute's term, FDA's classification order among them [7, 34].

Renamed priorities. The Department of Education's proposed priorities and definitions of 5 November 2026, open for comment until 7 December 2026, propose "to use the term 'Super Intelligence' to replace [the statute's term] and use 'SI' to replace [its abbreviation] in every use of the terms", with limited exceptions [11]. It proposes to rename the priority "Advancing Super Intelligence in Education" and the definition "Super Intelligence (SI)" [11]. The old term stays in the definition of SI and in the title of a Department of Labor literacy framework [11]. The proposed definition restates the order: "Super intelligence (SI) means the technologies and systems encompassed by [the statute's term] as defined in 15 U.S.C. 9401(3)" [11].

A defined SI system. Treasury's Office of Investment Security, in a proposed rule of 26 October 2026 on outbound investment, calls what the Part 850 regulations defined under the old term "'super intelligence systems' (SI systems)" [12]. It proposes a section 851.232 headed "Super Intelligence (SI) System" and a definition "generally consistent with the existing definition" in the Part 850 regulations, "but with some modifications" [12]. Its narrative keeps the old term for the Part 850 regulations and Title VIII and uses SI for the proposed rule [12]. Comments close on 7 December 2026 [12].

A notice titled in the new term. A Coast Guard notice of 26 October 2026 on a cooperative research and development agreement is titled "Cooperative Research and Development Agreement: Super Intelligence (SI) Situational Awareness Tools for Analyzing Coast Guard (CG) Sensor Feeds for Search and Rescue (SAR)" [36]. Its text uses SI or "super intelligence" 10 times and the statute's term once (counted for this report), and comments close on 25 November 2026 [36].

A wrong order number. The Education notice cites the order as "E.O. 14344" four times and as "E.O. 14434 (91 FR 63129)" once (counted for this report) [11]. Executive Order 14344 is "Making Federal Architecture Beautiful Again", published at 90 FR 42685 on 3 September 2025 [15]. The notice's Federal Register citation, 91 FR 63129, points to the right order [11, 32].

8. Federal websites

On 7 November 2026 the earlier address of the federal policy site opened SI.gov, titled "America's Super Intelligence Initiatives" [37]. NIST's topic page, at its earlier address, opened a page titled "Super intelligence", which says: "Per the Sept. 29, 2026, Executive Order 14434: Inaugurating the Era of Super Intelligence, NIST is working to update its communications to incorporate the term 'super intelligence' as directed" [38]. NIST's standards center now carries the name Center for Advancing Innovation and Standards for Super Intelligence (CAISSI), while older news items on its page keep the earlier name [39]. The OSTP page lists "super intelligence" among the "critical and emerging technologies" its Director's work covers, and its footer links SI.gov [40].

9. Sec. 3(b): a proposal due on 28 November 2026

Sec. 3(b) reads: "Within 60 days of the date of this order, the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology (APST), in consultation with the heads of other agencies as the APST deems appropriate, shall submit to the President proposed legislative language to establish a Federal definition of 'Super Intelligence' and 'SI' that reflects the capabilities described in section 1 of this order" [1]. The proposal has three parts:

1. "an assessment of whether, and to what extent, the definition of 'Super Intelligence' and 'SI' should modify, expand upon, or otherwise supersede the existing statutory definition of 'artificial intelligence'" [1]
2. "any proposed conforming amendments, as appropriate, to existing statutory references to 'artificial intelligence' and 'AI'" [1]
3. "recommendations for any additional Presidential or executive action necessary to implement the proposed definition throughout the executive branch" [1]

Sixty days from 29 September 2026 is Saturday 28 November 2026 (computed for this report) [1]. The language goes to the President, and the order does not say whether it is to be made public [1, 3].

The order's own definition can be replaced by "subsequent Presidential action consistent with applicable law or by an Act of Congress" [1]. The statutory definition is another matter: "Only Congress can change the statutory definition" [3]. The same note adds: "If Congress adopts a new definition, whether broader or narrower, it could change which technologies, products, and services fall within laws that rely on the current definition" [3]. The alert of 2 October 2026 notes possible ramifications if federal terminology comes to differ from the term used in international industry standards, state laws, corporate governance frameworks and compliance programs [25].

10. "SI" already means other things

NIST writes of "the International System of Units (SI), commonly known as the metric system" [14]. In the CMS payment rule of 6 November 2026, SI is a payment status indicator: "We are finalizing the creation of new status indicator (SI) 'O1'" [9]. That rule uses SI 48 times as a word of its own, 46 times for a status indicator and

twice, in "SI-assisted prior authorization" and "SI-enabled utilization management", for super intelligence [9]. It writes "super intelligence" 4 times and "superintelligence" once (counted for this report) [9].

Search suggestions show the same overlap. On 7 November 2026, Google's suggestions for "what does si stand for" included the metric system's units, medicine, chemistry, mental health, physics, a car model and the old abbreviation [41]. Its suggestions for SI set against the old abbreviation included phrasings that ask for the meaning and one that names the executive order [42]. They record one day, and this report makes no claim about when such searches began.

Implications

For anyone who reads, searches or extracts from U.S. federal documents published after 2 October 2026, the order changes the executive branch's vocabulary and leaves the statutory subject where it was.

- **One set, two labels.** Where a document ties SI to the order or to 15 U.S.C. 9401(3), as the CMS, ONC and Education documents do, "Super Intelligence", "SI" and the statute's term name one statutory set [9, 10, 11]. A search or extraction schema that matches one label misses the other. Of the 42 documents in the second window that contain either phrase, 26 contain only the statute's term and 7 only "super intelligence" (computed for this report from [5, 7]).
- **A document's own definition comes first.** Treasury proposes an SI system definition "generally consistent" with its existing one "but with some modifications" [12]. Where a document writes its own definition, that definition and its date belong with the label in any record made from it.
- **Mapping footnotes are evidence.** Footnotes such as CMS's footnote 173 and ONC's footnote to the order tie the new term to its source in the document's own words [9, 10]. Kept with a mapped field, the passage lets a reviewer check the mapping.
- **The abbreviation collides.** SI is also a payment status indicator and the metric system's abbreviation [9, 14]. Matching "SI" needs the document's own expansion.
- **Citations by number can be wrong.** The Education notice's "E.O. 14344" points to an order on federal architecture, while its Federal Register citation resolves correctly [11, 15]. Resolving by Federal Register page and checking the title catches the error.
- **The old term stays where it was.** Statutes, statutory office names, earlier executive order titles, 41 results in the current CFR, a CFR heading dated 5 November 2026 and procedure code descriptors keep it [9, 13, 22, 26, 27].
- **Dates to watch.** Comments close for the Coast Guard notice on 25 November 2026, for the Treasury and Education proposals on 7 December 2026 and for the CMS rule on 4 January 2027 [9, 11, 12, 36]. The ONC rule takes effect on 28 December 2026, three of its amendatory instructions on 1 January 2027, and the CMS rule on 1 January 2027 [9, 10]. The Sec. 3(b) proposal is due to the President on 28 November 2026 (computed for this report) [1]. A change to the statutory definition is for Congress to make [3].

Limits of this analysis

- This report reads published texts. It is research and not legal advice, and it draws no conclusion about what any agency or person must do.
- Federal Register full-text search counts documents that contain a phrase anywhere, quotes and citations included, as the order's own place in the count for the statute's term shows [7]. A query for the single word "superintelligence" over the second window returned one document, the CMS rule, so the spelling searched changes the count [43].
- The counts come from one day's queries. Corrections can move them, and two windows of 36 days say nothing about longer trends.
- Websites were checked only where Finding 8 names them, and no survey of agency sites was made.
- The opened sources do not say whether the order reaches independent regulatory agencies. Finding 7 records which documents used which term and says nothing about obligation.
- No count of U.S. Code sections that use the statute's term was made, and what the Sec. 3(b) proposal says is outside the record on 7 November 2026.

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