

ZAKON #25 — Pre/Post-flight Mandatory (H/BLOCKER)

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Source: `~/system/rules/john-operating-system.md` line 77

Instituted: 2026-04-28 (MC #9941 panel approved 4/5 + DA timing dissent preserved)

The Rule

WHEN task priority = H AND (BLOCKER label OR multi-component OR effort \geq M)

THEN workflow MUST be:

1. `/prompt-forge <mc_id>` — 5-panel pre-flight, unified prompt
2. `/mehanik "task" <path> <mc_id>` — gate clearance (existing)
3. Specialist dispatch with forged prompt
4. `/task-postflight <mc_id>` — Proveo validation + learning loop

When to Skip `/prompt-forge`

Skip directly to `/mehanik` when **ANY** of:

- Priority = M or L
- Trivial scope (single-line config, single-file edit, recurring template)
- Effort = S
- Explicit `/skip-forge` directive

SKIP `/task-postflight`? Never. Mandatory closure for H/BLOCKER.

Decision Tree

HAS the task been classified as H + BLOCKER/multi-component?

YES → /prompt-forge mandatory

NO → skip directly to /mehanik

AFTER specialist dispatch completes:

/task-postflight <mc_id> – ALWAYS for H/BLOCKER

Why This Exists

Eliminates reactive scope creep. Historical incidents:

- **feedback_drop_ceo_request_scope_creep.md**: CEO requested "fix Drop demo" (5 bugs). John hallucinated "staging + CI infra" from LLM memory, dispatched 11 infra agents, lost 6h. Real deploy path = Docker → ECR → apprunner (30 min).
- **Dual-backend incident #9892**: Specialist built second backend because task prompt didn't specify "use existing backend".

Solution: 5-expert panel (Petter Graff, Devils Advocate, Anthropic CA, OpenAI CA, Chip Huyen) produces better prompts for H/BLOCKER tasks. Disagreements preserved unsmoothed in

<disagreements> XML block.

How to Apply

For John (orchestrator):

1. Classify incoming task: priority, labels, effort, components
2. If H + BLOCKER/multi-component → invoke `/prompt-forge <mc_id>`
3. Wait for forged prompt at `~/system/prompts/forged/<mc_id>.md`
4. Pass forged prompt to `/mehanik` as Phase A input
5. After Mehanik clearance → dispatch specialist with forged prompt
6. After specialist completes → invoke `/task-postflight <mc_id>`
7. Wait for Proveo validation + learning loop
8. Submit `mc.js ready` only after postflight clears

For specialists (builders):

No change. You receive a forged prompt (if H/BLOCKER) or regular prompt (if M/L). Execute as normal. Postflight validation happens after you finish.

Cost Guardrails

- **/prompt-forge cap:** \$1.00 per invocation
- **/task-postflight cap:** \$0.50 per invocation
- **Daily budget:** \$5.00 for prompt-forge (\approx 5 BLOCKER tasks/day max)
- **Typical combined cost:** \$0.49 warm cache / \$1.35 cold per H/BLOCKER task

v0.1 Deferred Items

Deferred to post-Akershus (after 2026-05-04):

- Eval harness: 20-task golden dataset replay
- Complexity classifier: automated scope gate (replaces heuristic)
- cost-tracker.js integration: per-invocation logging + alerts
- Observability: agent latency, token counts, BFPR metric
- BFPR ship gate: $\geq 70\%$ Builder First-Pass Rate over first 20 uses before declaring v1.0

Panel Approval Record

MC #9941: ZAKON #25 proposal

Panelist	Vote	Key Argument
Petter Graff	APPROVE	Scope creep root cause = ambiguous prompts. 5-expert forge addresses this.
Anthropic CA	APPROVE	Disagreements XML preserves tension \rightarrow better builder context.
OpenAI CA	APPROVE	Post-flight learning loop closes gap between intent and execution.
Chip Huyen	APPROVE	Cost acceptable if BFPR $\geq 70\%$ (empirical gate required).
Devils Advocate	DISSENT	Timing risk: 5-panel forge adds 2-5 min overhead. May bottleneck on urgent H tasks. Proposes fast-path override for P0 incidents.

CEO decision: Approved 4/5. DA timing dissent preserved — fast-path override deferred to v0.2 based on empirical P0 incident latency data.

References

- **Authoritative rule:** `~/system/rules/john-operating-system.md` line 77
- **Skill: prompt-forge:** `~/ .claude/skills/prompt-forge/SKILL.md`
- **Skill: task-postflight:** `~/ .claude/skills/task-postflight/SKILL.md`
- **Full spec:** `/tmp/std1-synthesis.md`
- **Memory entry:** `~/ .claude/projects/-Users-makinja/memory/feedback_prompt_forge_postflight_zakon.md`
- **Incident references:**
 - `feedback_drop_ceo_request_scope_creep.md`
 - Dual-backend incident #9892

Author: ALAI, 2026

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Revision #2

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