WP-VS-001 Addendum A1 — A Verified Stop for Physical Machines

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Prepared for the Office of Rep. Ted Lieu as the companion to WP-VS-001, “Safety Is Practical for All: A Verified Stop for Advanced AI,” sent together with it as one package on October 8, 2026. Patent pending.

What this addendum adds

The accompanying paper, WP-VS-001, defines a verified stop for an AI system in five tests: authority outside the system, a stop that needs no cooperation, silence stops it, a second person to restart, and drills that leave a record. Those tests were written for software. This companion extends the same definition to machines that act in the world, robots, autonomous vehicles, drones and automated equipment, which is where most people picture a kill switch in the first place, and where a bill that only reaches models would leave a gap.

Criterion F, in plain words. A physical machine meets the verified-stop definition when an independent party can bring it to a safe stop without the cooperation of the machine, its software or its network; when that stop is rehearsed on a schedule and leaves a record anyone can check; and when the machine’s stop-assurance level, including none, is stated to the owner before it runs. Criterion F names no mechanism. Any maker can meet it any way they choose, and a machine that cannot be stopped from outside is not banned, it is labeled.

Why it matters for the bill. Today every robot keeps its own record of whether it can be stopped, and the only evidence is what the maker says. A kill-switch requirement written as “the operator shall be able to stop the system” is a promise with no test behind it. Criterion F gives the bill a test an inspector, an insurer or a court can apply to a machine, with the record coming from a party the machine cannot reach. It also answers the question staff will get from the robotics industry: it does not require a redesign, a certified safety system, or a particular vendor.

The cost point. The floor is cheap to clear. A stop that meets Criterion F can be added to a machine that was never built for one for a few dollars of hardware, and built in at the factory for under two percent of a consumer robot’s bill of materials. That is the number that lets the bill require it of everyone rather than only the largest makers. The hardware is patent pending, and the definition is open and royalty-free to government, nonprofits and individuals under the Alliance’s public-basis commitment.

Suggested bill language. “A covered physical system shall be capable of being brought to a safe state by a party other than the system, its operator, or its developer, without the cooperation of the system, with such capability exercised on a recurring schedule and documented in a record verifiable by an independent party, and with the level of such capability disclosed to the end user prior to operation.”

What we can offer the office. The full text of Criterion F and its test as soon as the Alliance posts it for comment, a demonstration on a consumer robot, and a briefing for counsel staff on how the record would work in an enforcement action. Contact: John M. Ossenmacher, 949-238-0120, pac@sworne.io.