



Branch Policy Standard

Introduction

This standard is intended to define the minimum branch policy to be set up in either GitHub or Azure DevOps for each newly created code repository.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define a standard for committing new or changed code to a larger codebase.

Definitions

Pull request – A method of submitting a code contribution to an existing repository.

Status check – Any action that has to result in a true or valid result before the pull request can be completed.

Standard

All new code bases should have a branch policy in place on whichever branch is considered the main/master that does not allow code to be checked in directly. All code changes going into this branch must be done via a pull request. The branch policy has at least one status check that triggers a build of the code to ensure what is attempting to be merged is in a good, buildable state. This branch policy is set up in such a way that at least one other developer of the team approves it after a thorough code review.

Compliance

This standard shall take effect upon publication and is made pursuant to Title 62 O.S. §§ 34.11.1 and 34.12 and Title 62 O.S. § 35.8. OMES IS may amend and publish the amended standards policies and standards at any time. Compliance is expected with all published policies and standards, and any published amendments thereof. Employees found in violation of this standard may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Rationale

To coordinate and require central approval of state agency information technology purchases and projects to enable the chief information officer to assess the needs and capabilities of state agencies as well as streamline and consolidate systems to ensure that the state delivers essential public services to its citizens in the most efficient manner at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers.

References

- [Azure DevOps – Improve code quality with branch policies.](#)
- [GitHub – Managing a branch protection rule.](#)

Revision history

This standard is subject to periodic review to ensure relevancy.

Effective date: 05/06/2022	Review cycle: Annual
Last revised: 03/06/2022	Last reviewed: 07/29/2025
Approved by: Dan Cronin, Chief Information Officer	