

Field Controller Layer

See overview: [System Architecture Overview](#)

The **Field Controller Layer** is the on-site, **safety-authoritative AOFS controller**. It is responsible for executing irrigation schedules, monitoring sensors, enforcing fail-safes, and ensuring reliable operation even **without network connectivity**.

All AOFS deployments **must** include a Field Controller for each irrigation site or zone.

1. Purpose

The Field Controller:

- Executes irrigation schedules in real time.
- Reads all field sensors and enforces safety logic.
- Operates autonomously offline; cannot be bypassed by Farm or HQ Controllers.
- Provides local operator monitoring for **non-critical functions only**.
- Logs all events, including safety triggers, irrigation actions, and manual operator inputs.

2. Core Responsibilities

1. Irrigation Execution

- Opens and closes valves according to schedules.
- Controls pumps based on tank levels, flow, and pressure.
- Stops irrigation when safety thresholds are exceeded.

2. Sensor Monitoring

- Soil moisture per zone
- Water tank levels (FULL / LOW floats)
- Flow meters and pressure sensors
- Battery voltage / current
- Rain detection (e.g., tipping bucket)
- Optional: Optical / camera data for local analytics

3. Fail-Safe Enforcement

- Prevent over-irrigation, flooding, and pump damage.
- Stop pumps when tank is LOW or battery voltage below minimum.
- Stop irrigation during rain lockout or safety-triggered conditions.
- Operates independently of software updates or network availability.

4. Local Operator Interaction

- Embedded interface (small touchscreen, local web UI, or buttons + display).
- Operators may view data, acknowledge alerts, or trigger **non-critical overrides** only.
- Critical irrigation decisions **cannot be overridden** by the operator.

5. Event Logging & Auditability

- All irrigation events, sensor readings, alerts, and operator interactions must be logged with timestamps.
 - Logs are persisted locally and later transmitted to Farm/HQ Controllers during sync.
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3. Offline Operation Requirements

- The Field Controller **must operate independently** of LAN, WiFi, or cellular connections.
 - Irrigation, safety enforcement, and data collection must **continue uninterrupted**.
 - Any local operator interface functions must **not compromise safety-critical rules**.
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4. Optional Weather-Aware Control

- Field Controllers operate fully offline by default using local sensors, operational logic, and historical data
 - When internet connectivity is available, controllers may fetch local or global weather forecasts
 - High wind, storm, or extreme precipitation warnings trigger automated alerts to operators
 - Controller can temporarily maintain minimum tank water levels to prevent tipping or structural instability
 - Irrigation schedules or pump operation may be suspended or adjusted proactively based on forecast data
 - Forecasts may also inform reservoir management, overflow routing, and irrigation sequencing
 - All forecast-based actions are **non-normative** and optional; offline/manual operation remains fully functional
 - Forecast-informed actions must **never override core safety-critical rules**
 - All forecast-based adjustments are logged for auditability
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5. Authority Rules

- Field Controller is **fully authoritative** for all safety-critical operations.
- No remote controller or operator input can bypass Field Controller fail-safes.
- Farm or HQ Controllers may **suggest configuration or irrigation adjustments**, but Field Controller rules take precedence.

6. Human Interface

- Minimal embedded UI for operators:
 - View irrigation status per zone
 - See safety alerts (tank LOW/FULL, battery low, rain lockout)
 - Acknowledge alerts
- Operators **cannot override critical safety logic**.
- Operator actions are logged for audit purposes.

7. Hardware & Integration

- Embedded microcontrollers (ESP32, Arduino, or industrial equivalent).
- Interfaces:
 - PIO/relay control for pumps and valves
 - Analog/digital inputs for sensors
 - Optional serial / I2C / SPI for additional modules
- Power: must tolerate brownouts, low-voltage conditions, and recover automatically.
- Optional backup: small local battery or UPS to maintain control during power interruptions.

8. Compliance Notes

- AOFS compliance **requires each field site to have a Field Controller**.
- All safety and irrigation decisions must be logged locally.
- Any attempt to bypass Field Controller logic by higher-layer controllers **invalidates AOFS compliance**.
- Field Controller must remain fully functional **even if disconnected from Farm or HQ controllers**.

9. References

- [System Architecture Overview](#)
- [Farm Controller Layer \(Local / Federated\)](#)
- [Hydraulic & Water Systems](#)
- [Electrical & Control Interfaces](#)
- [Measuring, Monitoring & Documentation Systems](#)

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