



Certify Your Automotive Quality Management System

IATF 16949:2016

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In October 2016, the IATF published IATF 16949:2016. It will supersede and replace the current ISO/TS 16949. It will be aligned with and refer to ISO 9001:2015. IATF 16949:2016 is not a stand-alone quality management standard. It is implemented as a supplement to, and in conjunction with, ISO 9001:2015.

The Automotive Standard

IATF 16949:2016 is a Quality Management Systems automotive “sector-specific” standard based on ISO 9001:2015. IATF 16949:2016 was developed by the members of International Automotive Task Force (IATF).

The document (which includes ISO 9001:2015 by reference), plus the individual OEM customer-specific requirements, defines the quality system requirements for use in the automotive supply chain.

Third Party Registrars

The IATF has developed its own unique and proprietary registration process and requirements for organization registration. It also qualifies its own registrars and registrar auditors. The registration scheme includes common rules for consistent global registration processes.

More on IATF 16949:2016

IATF 16949:2016 was approved and issued on October 1st, 2016 as an automotive sector-specific Quality Management System set of requirements that use the updated ISO 9001:2015 (verbatim) as its base. It replaced ISO/TS 16949:2009 based on ISO 9001:2008.

As an industry standard:

- Anyone can acquire a copy of this standard, IATF 16949, through www.AIAG.org.
- Anyone can acquire a copy of the “Rules” for achieving IATF recognition, through www.AIAG.org.
- Anyone can utilize this document to improve their Quality Management Systems.
- Any organization that meets the applicability rules (noted below) can be certified by a third-party certification body/registrar.

Applicability

The IATF has asked all registrars to assure that IATF 16949 registrants meet the following applicability requirements:

- Only manufacturers can apply for IATF 16949 registration (see definition under 3.0 in IATF 16949) and only if they meet the applicability requirements specified in Rules for Achieving and Maintaining IATF Recognition, section 1.0.
- Any tier may be registered if it has a direct customer in the

automotive supply chain (most affected are Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers). Distributors cannot be registered to IATF 16949.

- Evidence of being a potential supplier to a customer requiring IATF 16949 could include a Request For Quotation issued to the organization or the organization being on a current bid list of the IATF 16949 subscribing customer.

Fifth Edition Rules

In addition to the IATF 16949:2016 technical standard, the IATF established a governing document called “Rules for Achieving and Maintaining IATF Recognition.” The 5th Edition “Rules” were published November 1, 2016 and took effect on January 1, 2017, and include criteria for the registrar, registrar audit process, auditor qualification, certification requirements, and expectations for the registering organization. The “Rules” mandate a two-stage process for registration.

Stage 1, the “Readiness Review,” is conducted on-site for a minimum of one or two days. Its single purpose is to determine whether an organization may proceed to a Stage 2 registration audit. The Stage 1 audit is required even if the organization has elected to undergo a Pre-Assessment Audit. Furthermore, each value-added site must be independently assessed for readiness. Stage 2 is the full registration audit, and it must take place within 90 days of the Stage 1 visit. If it is not feasible to proceed with the Stage 2 audit within that 90-day period, a second Stage 1 audit must be conducted.

Important Rules

Some of the important “Rules”:

- The Pre-Assessment auditors cannot perform the registration audits
- Pre-Assessment on-site time is limited to 80% of Stage 2 on-site time
- Corporate quoting schemes are permitted for manufacturing/value-added sites only. Corporate refers to the quoting scheme only. Each value-added site must have a separate report and separate certificate issued
- Sampling of sites is not permitted
- For each subsequent recertification and surveillance cycle, different auditors must be used
- For Major (Hold) corrective actions, the client must determine root cause and implement correction within 20 days from the end of the site audit and an on-site Special Audit for verification is required
- Surveillance events must be of equal duration
- Renewal Audit must occur within 3 years of the previous initial or re-registration (renewal) audit event
- The certificate must be issued within 120 days of the last day on-site at the initial or renewal event
- An IATF 16949 organization is expected to refer to the new Fifth edition “Rules.”

Satisfying Your Automotive Customer

Subscribing automotive OEM companies will only recognize and accept an IATF 16949 registration which has been conducted using the prescribed registration process (“rules” available from the IAOB) and conducted by third party registrars that have been selected by the IAOB/IATF.

Registration to IATF 16949 by an IATF “selected” registrar is required before a certificate can show the IATF mark and indicate IATF recognition.

The Certification Process

Certification can happen fairly quickly once your management system is ready. The typical certification process involves an on-site Pre-Assessment if you desire, a stage-1 Readiness Review of your system, the stage-2 Certification Audit itself, closure of any open issues, a review by the registrar, and the issuance of your certificate. Certification costs are typically small compared to the cost of implementing the system. Fees are typically driven by the size of your company, complexity, and audit days required. With some basic information about your company, SRI can easily provide a no-obligation, detailed cost proposal for your consideration.

Steps for ISO/TS 16949 Registration:

1. Contact SRI for answers to questions and request an information package about SRI's registration steps.
2. Review the information, complete, and return the registration survey to SRI
3. SRI will provide a detailed, formal cost proposal based on your survey information
4. SRI will conduct a Pre-Assessment, if desired
5. An on-site Stage 1 Readiness Review of your system will be conducted and a full report issued
6. SRI will conduct a Stage 2 audit: a full on-site examination of objective evidence that confirms your management system meets the IATF 16949 requirements. The Stage 2 audit concludes with a post-audit conference, review of results, and our assessor's recommendation
7. You submit any corrective action responses to SRI, which the assessor reviews for acceptance and closure
8. Once your company meets all registration requirements, you will need to complete a registration agreement
9. SRI will issue a registration certificate and include your company in relevant public listings
10. SRI will conduct surveillance audits at regular intervals (yearly, for example) to ensure continued conformance of your system

Selecting Your Registrar

Your selection of a registrar can be the start of a relationship that will likely be in place for a long time. Value to you and your business comes from the expertise and seniority of your auditor first and foremost. Consistent, fair, and thorough audits ensure you get value each time your auditor visits.

Your accredited registrar should also offer one-on-one support, responsiveness, 24/7 access to your certification information,

global recognition, the full range of standards your business will need, training services, and industry leadership. Each country has its own accreditation body recognized by the IATF. In the U.S., it is the IAOB.

SRI is a Full-Service, Accredited Registrar

As acceptance of international standards has grown, so has SRI. Established in 1991, **SRI was one of the first five registrars in the U.S.** SRI now serves over 40 major manufacturing and services industries across North America, Asia, and Europe.

SRI Auditors Make the Difference

From its leadership role, SRI has built its business by employing the best auditors in the field. Our senior auditors are seasoned professionals averaging more than 25 years of experience. They know the standards and the industry so they can step right in and add value to your audit.

We know you have a choice.

Here's why you should choose SRI:

- Accredited by ANAB, RvA, and the IAOB/IATF, SRI offers registration to **a full range of standards** to meet all your business needs
- SRI's **web-based e-VENTS** system, integrated with our fully automated operation support, puts all your sites' audit schedules, plans, and results at your fingertips when you need it, where you need it
- We offer **Pre-Assessments** and two-stage **Registration and Renewal audits** that give you one-on-one time with a lead auditor and an early look at your system, which leads to a smoother registration audit
- SRI's **no-surprises, practical, open-book approach** builds strong, long-lasting relationships
- We are one of the **top five U.S. owned and operated** registrars, and among the first to be ISO/TS 16949 qualified. Decisions regarding your business and registration are made right here by us
- **SRI's membership** in key QMS and EMS technical advisory groups, and participation in industry standards development and oversight, ensure you are among the first to know about changes that will affect your business
- **Training (public)** conducted by our lead auditors on standards and requirements gives you the practical, hands-on knowledge you need to succeed
- **Our organization is the right size** to provide responsive, one-on-one service to every client. We are ready when you need us

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