

FAQ - Certification of Quality Management According to IATF 16949:2016



Our FAQ provides you the right answers to your questions about certification according to the international IATF 16949:2016 standard of the automotive industry.

1. What is the IATF 16949?

The IATF 16949 is a standard developed by the IATF (International Automotive Task Force) to define internationally recognized criteria for quality management in the automotive industry. IATF 16949 contains specific requirements that relate exclusively to products and processes in the automotive sector.

2. Why is a uniform quality standard so important in the automotive industry today?

Due to globalized markets and production processes, the challenges facing the automotive industry are becoming

ever greater. Supply chains today are branched worldwide and range from small subcontractors to large manufacturers, making systems more complex and therefore more susceptible to errors and defects.

Although individual nations and international automobile manufacturers sometimes have their own criteria and demands in terms of quality, a globally uniform approach to quality is needed to recognize and mitigate risks at an early stage. IATF 16949 combines the most important requirements and standards from countries such as the USA, Germany, France and Italy.

3. What are the objectives of IATF 16949?

This internationally recognized set of rules is intended to continuously improve quality management in the automotive industry with approaches being regularly checked for effectiveness. It aims to quickly identify and immediately eliminate errors and risks along the entire supply chain and in the production process. The measures introduced are also intended to achieve a sustained increase in customer satisfaction.

4. Is the IATF 16949 an independent standard?

No, the IATF 16949 is not an independent standard. Developed by the International Automotive Task Force on the basis of **DIN ISO 9001**, IATF 16949 should rather be seen as a supplement, which is specifically geared to automotive criteria. This means that if your quality management system is to be certified according to IATF 16949:2016, you must also comply with DIN ISO 9001.

5. Who can be certified according to IATF 16949:2016? In principle, the standard is a sensible and useful supplement for all companies along the supply chain in the automotive industry: from large original equipment manufacturers, spare parts producers, and small suppliers to automotive service providers and manufacturers of automotive accessories.

6. How can my company benefit from IATF 16949:2016 certification?

Certification according to IATF 16949:2016 opens up a whole range of advantages for you. Here are some of the most important:

- Higher quality of processes and products
- More trust with customers, partners, and service providers

- Prerequisite for cooperation with many brand manufacturers
- Reduction of errors and defects
- Work according to international standards
- Possible integration into an existing quality management system
- Uniform industry standard: multiple certifications no longer necessary
- Time and cost savings

7. How is IATF 16949:2016 certification carried out?

For certification according to IATF 16949:2016, our experts rely on the following reliable and effective procedure:

1. Information discussion: clarification of open questions, joint determination of the next steps, project discussion, or optional pre-audit
2. Document verification and on-site audit: readiness analysis, description of the management system, quality capability towards customers, implementation of documented day-to-day business assertions
3. Audit report with results of the evaluation: if necessary with hints for optimization potentials and post-evaluation
4. Certificate and DEKRA seal: awarding of the certificate after successful audit results, DEKRA seal issued
5. Surveillance audit: annual review of the maintenance and further development of the management system

8. Can I have my different locations certified together?

If you have several locations, IATF 16949 makes it possible to have them certified together. Joint certification is, however, subject to specific conditions. For example, respective sites must be clearly subordinate to your main site, and the distance between the respective sites must be appropriate according to the requirements.

9. Does IATF 16949:2016 also address the needs of my customers?

Yes, the standard is particularly geared to the requirements of customers in the automotive industry. IATF 16949 supports companies along the entire supply chain in their efforts to respond even better to customer needs. Important criteria include the traceability and safety-relatedness of parts and processes as well as support in warranty management.

**Are you interested in certification according to IATF 16949? Do you have any further questions?
Talk to our experts!**

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