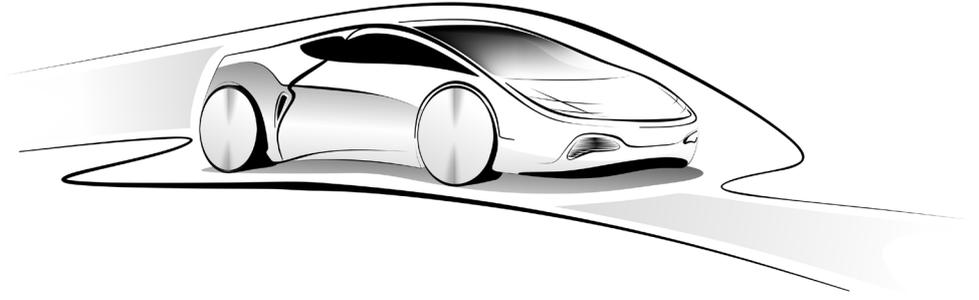# New automotive standard: ISO/TS 16949 becomes IATF 16949

The new international automotive standard IATF 16949 was published in October 2016. It will take the place of the currently applicable Technical Specification ISO/TS 16949:2009. Like its predecessors, the new IATF 16949 is aligned with ISO 9001.

In this respect, IATF 16949 also follows the new High Level Structure of management system standards, combining the extended requirements of ISO 9001:2015 with those of the automotive industry.

In accordance with the transition period for ISO 9001:2008 certificates, certificates to ISO/TS 16949 will expire at the same time: on 14 September 2018.

Safe transition

The Transition Audit from ISO/TS 16949 to IATF 16949 may only take place during a regular surveillance or recertification audit according to the currently allowed timing. It is therefore not possible to conduct the Transition Audit as an additional audit outside of the current audit cycle.

Plan ahead

If you want to be on the safe side of the short timeline, which ends on 14 September 2018, you should transition during the next scheduled audit in 2017. At the latest, though, the Transition Audit needs to be finished by June 2018. Only then will there be enough time to close any non-conformities and finalize the certification process in time. The new IATF 16949 certificate will only be issued after all non-conformities have been closed. If the Transition Audit takes place at a later time, there is a risk of a certification gap of up to 120 days.

What to expect

According to the IATF Rules (Table 5.2), the transition audit shall take as much time as a re-certification audit. However, the document review that is required prior to the audit may be conducted by the auditor on or off site. To this end, the organization needs to make available to the auditor at least their quality management documentation (e.g. manual, process map and processes), and evidence of their conformity with the IATF 16949 requirements (e.g. via internal audit reports and gap analyses). Depending on the organization's level of maturity, size and complexity, document review will take at least four hours. If documentation has not been submitted in advance, the Transition Audit shall commence with an additional 0.5 days minimum on site.

Look out for: supporting functions

All supporting functions (on site or Remote Location) must be included in the Transition Process according to the current ISO/TS 16949:2009 cycle. It is recommended that in doing so, the Transition Audit be conducted for any supporting functions first, and only then to conduct the Transition Audit at the production site. Only in exceptional cases will a suitable gap analysis of the supporting function according to the new requirements of IATF 16949 prior to the audit at the production site be sufficient. Prerequisite for this is, however, that the gap analysis and the respective detailed action plans be available for the Transition Audit at the related production site. Otherwise, a comprehensive initial certification audit must be conducted at this site.

Certifications according to ISO/TS 16949:2009

After 1 October 2017, no more initial certifications, surveillance, re-certification and transfer audits may be conducted according to ISO/TS 16949:2009.

Change of Certification Body

A simultaneous transfer to another certification body is not allowed during the Transition Audit. You may transition safely to your new certification partner DQS provided you carry out one last audit to ISO/TS 16949 early in 2017, and then have the Transition Audit take place in 2018.

From ISO/TS 16949 to IATF 16949

When planning your Transition Audit, it is important to ensure that the management system has already been transitioned prior to the audit. This includes, e.g., having conducted internal system audits and management review according to the new standard already.

October 2016	2017	1 October 2017	2018	June 2018		14 September 2018
Publication of IATF 16949	Start: Transition audit according to IATF 16949	**No more audits according to ISO/TS 16949:2009**		End: Transition audit according to IATF 16949	Closing of measures and timely finish of certification to IATF 16949	Expiration of all ISO/TS 16949 certificates

Voluntary transition from early 2017 to June 2018 at the latest. The Transition Audit and successful certification starts a new audit cycle with a certification period of three years.

IATF 16949 – Significant changes

IATF 16949:2016 will replace ISO/TS 16949:2009 in September 2018. Together with the automotive industry's customer-specific requirements and the requirements of ISO 9001:2015, the standard defines the basic requirements for quality management systems for automotive production and relevant service parts organizations. The structure of IATF 16949:2016 was aligned with the High Level Structure of ISO 9001:2015. What is also new is that the contents of ISO 9001:2015 are no longer part of IATF 16949:2016. In the future, both standards need to be implemented jointly.

As regards content, changes and innovations can be found mainly in the following subject areas:

- Requirements for safety-related parts and processes
- Traceability
- Products with embedded software
- Warranty management process including addressing NTF (No Trouble Found)
- Supplier selection, management and development
- Principles of corporate responsibility
- Integration of customer-specific requirements into the scope of the quality management system
- Internal auditors and second-party auditors
- Temporary changes in the control of production processes