



ISO/TS 16949

Automotive industry

The automotive manufacturers' ever shorter design and development time, in addition to increasing dependence on suppliers combined with the growing complexity of today's cars, have created significant challenges for the entire industry.

One of the major challenges facing today's manufacturers is that, even though there is a low failure probability for each individual component, the total failure probability for all parts combined may reach unacceptable levels. The ISO/TS 16949 standard answers this challenge by defining requirements focused on continual improvement, and the understanding of process interaction. It also creates an implementation framework for customer specific requirements, and includes clear requirements for development processes, and techniques to prevent problems in the earliest possible stage of product development.

What is ISO/TS 16949?

Jointly developed by International Automotive Task Force (IATF), ISO/TS 16949 is the automotive industry's international quality management system standard intended to answer the need for global consistency, continual improvement, and increase customer satisfaction. It is approved, and released by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).

ISO/TS 16949 is based on a number of different standards: ISO 9001:2000, AVSQ (Italy), EAQF (France), QS-9000 (U.S.A.), and VDA 6.1 (Germany), and define quality system requirements for use in the automotive supply chain. It must always be used in conjunction with the customer specific requirements of the individual OEMs.

The requirements of ISO/TS 16949 are applicable to all manufacturers of parts which go into or onto a vehicle. The applicability requirements have been defined by IATF in such a way that producers of tools or of parts not intended for use in cars or providers of indirect services (for example engineering) are not eligible for ISO/TS 16949 certification.

Why is quality management system certification good for my business?

A supplier, registered to ISO/TS 16949 by DNV is automatically entered into a worldwide database of suppliers. The database is used exclusively by the OEMs to stay updated on the certification status, and performance of their suppliers. Third party registration is increasingly becoming a contract pre-requisite. ISO/TS 16949 registration is designed to satisfy this contract requirement, eliminating the need for multiple third party registrations to individual national standards. With an ISO/TS 16949 certificate, certification to AVSQ, EAQF, QS-9000 or VDA 6.1 becomes unnecessary.

How can I prepare for certification?

The IATF has defined very strict, and specific requirements that relate to the certification process. Under the IATF requirements, once the document review has been successfully completed, DNV (as for all certification bodies) is required to assess the organisation's readiness by reviewing the following documents or information:

- Quality manual and relevant procedures depending on level of detail in the Quality Manual.
- Results of Internal Audits from the last 12 months.
- Internal Audit plan for the next 12 months.
- List of internal auditors qualified to audit the requirements of ISO/TS 16949.
- Results from Management Review(s) conducted in the last 12 months.
- Management Review(s) plan for the next 12 months.
- Status of customer complaints pending, where the customer has initiated containment actions or has stopped new orders.
- List of Customer-specific requirements, e.g. Formula Q (VW), Special Terms (DC).
- Meaningful performance trends of the organisation for the last 12 months for example Quality costs; customer satisfaction, KPI fulfilment, scrap rate, rework rate, delivery performance, etc.

A readiness check is required for each production site.

Before certification starts, it may be advisable for your company to perform internal audits on potential gaps, or contract a third party to perform a preliminary assessment.

DNV, your partner in the certification process.

The International Automotive Oversight Bureau (IAOB) was established to implement and manage the activities of the ISO/TS 16949 registration scheme on behalf of the IATF. The IAOB also manages, and coordinates with other international oversight offices to ensure global consistency. DNV has been appointed as a Recognized Body by the IAOB, and has a worldwide approval to provide global certification services against the requirements of ISO/TS 16949.

Risk Based Certification™ – tailored to your company's unique needs.

DNV's Risk Based Certification methodology aims to provide more value to you and your company through focused audits. We start by asking you to tell us what your most significant environmental risks are. Then, after discussions to agree on certain focus areas, we tailor the audit to address especially these identified processes. This is vital in assisting your company to identify key improvement areas.

By providing focused and structured information to top management on the organisation's ability to meet objectives, we offer more value than any other certification body.