



The Automotive Industry is among the most competitive in the world today, with stringent requirements and expectations for suppliers. Ensure your organization is on the cutting edge with IATF 16949!

WHAT IS IATF 16949 CERTIFICATION?

In response to the need for a uniform quality management standard for automotive suppliers around the world, the International Automotive Task Force (IATF) originally developed ISO/TS 16949 in 1999. The standard embraced ISO 9000 - the international benchmark for quality - and was intended to unify industry expectations under one banner of quality and continual improvement.

October 2016 saw the release of a sweeping update to ISO/TS 16949, which included a new name: IATF 16949. The new standard, IATF 16949:2016, is aligned with the most recent version of ISO's quality management systems standard, ISO 9001:2015. Thus IATF 16949 is not simply a one-off standard, but must be implemented in conjunction with ISO 9001.

At center stage in IATF 16949 - as in ISO 9001:2015 - is risk mitigation. This focus on risk-based thinking requires top management to be wholly engaged in the organization, with responsibilities such as contingency planning review and implementation of cybersecurity, in addition to anti-bribery and ethics escalation policies. Since the automotive industry is an ever-evolving environment, IATF 16949 also includes requirements to ensure that changes are matched by adjustments to quality management systems.

A Quality Management System based on this standard:

- Promotes continual improvement in all areas.
- Is a way to define how a business can meet its customer and stakeholder requirements.
- Emphasizes reduction of variation/defects in the supply chain (thus reducing waste).
- Requires corporate responsibility policies to be thoroughly documented and implemented. Objectives must be likewise defined and pursued through continuous improvement.
- Includes automotive industry-specific requirements and core tools such as:
 - Advanced Product Quality Planning (APQP)
 - Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA)
 - Measurement Systems Analysis (MSA)
 - Production Part Approval Process (PPAP)
 - Statistical Process Control (SPC)

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