The release of the new version of the ISO/TS 16949 Certification Rules (4th edition) for the automotive industry has included some fundamental changes in the certification process. These changes apply to the certified companies as well as to all the International Automotive Task Force (IATF) approved certification bodies. Certified companies must be aware of and compliant with the certification requirements, as well as the associated SIs (sanctioned interpretations) and FAQs. SIs and FAQs are available on the IATF homepage www.iatfglobaloversight.org for free. There is also a link provided to order certification requirements in different languages.

Revision of the certification requirements background:
- Incorporation of the Sanctioned Interpretations (SIs) and frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Specification of requirements and elimination of interpretation worthy passages of the 3rd edition
- Incorporation of experiences in applying the 3rd edition’s certification requirements
- Consideration of ISO/IEC 17021:2011

Application
As of October 1, 2013 the certification requirements related to ISO/TS 16949 have to be applied within a transition period of 6 months. This means that all certification activities (audits) that will occur from April 1, 2014 or, have to be performed according to the new certification rules. All affected certificates must be adjusted no later than April 1, 2015.

The most important changes for certified companies
Elimination of the extended workbench / site extensions
Locations with extended workbenches must certify the workbenches as a separate site starting April 1, 2014. Workbench sites will receive their own certificate and will be registered in the IATF database as a location. The current site location and the new site location (the former extended workbench), may be considered a calculatedas corporate scheme.

Participation of consultants in the audit
It will be agreed between the certification body and company that consultants may not be physically present during the audit or participate in the audit in any way (3.1g).

Requirements for Change Notifications
If any changes within the company are not reported to the certification body, then this will be interpreted as a breach of the contract and may lead to the withdrawal of the ISO / TS 16949 certificate (3.2).

Minimum audit time in production area(s) during the audit
The audit time in the production area(s) has to be at least 1/3 of the total audit time (5.2c).

Calculation of day laborers
The company has to inform the Certification Body of the average number of day laborers for the last 6 months, if applicable, to calculate the man-days for the audit on site (5.2e).

Change of the auditors during an audit cycle
In each audit cycle at least one auditor must participate in all audits for that company during the three year audit cycle (5.6).

Company information and audit planning
The company has to provide to the auditor, among other things, internal performance, customer performance data and customer reviews (from internet portals) etc.... If this information is not provided, then the decertification process can be initiated (5.7.1).

Additional audit time
Before the opening meeting of each audit the auditor has to do an on site verification of changes within the company (minimum duration = one hour); actual customer and internal performance data, customer online portals and scorecards, as well as customer reviews. This additional time (at least 1 hour) will be charged in addition to the calculated audit time (5.7.2a).

Non-conformity management after the audit
Within 60 calendar days after the last audit day, the company must provide proof of the implementation of containment measures and corrective actions incl. the verification of effectiveness of applied corrective actions to the Certification Body (5.11.1). The Certification Body then has to evaluate and decide whether they are acceptable within 90 calendar days (5.11.2).

100% resolved non-conformities
In exceptional cases where the implementation of corrective actions cannot be completed within 90 days after the last audit day, the Certification Body can classify the non-conformity as 100% resolved with conditions analogous with the certification requirements, 4th edition. However the closure of 100% resolved non-conformities must then happen on site BEFORE the next scheduled audit (5.11.2c).

Verification of effective implementation of corrective actions
If a corrective action resulting from a minor non-conformity is determined not to be implemented effectively at the client, a major non-conformity against the corrective action process and against the previously made minor non-conformity must be issued, which then leads to an on-site audit within 90 calendar days after the last audit day (5.11.3).

Issuance of certificates
The description of activities on the certificate for remote support functions (remote locations) must match those listed in the IATF database (5.13i).

Customer logos on certificates are not longer permitted (5.13k).

All relevant certificates must be adjusted no later than April 1, 2015; preferably during the next planned audit.

Special audits
It is at the discretion of the Certification Body to conduct a “special audit” in case of complaints (see 8.1.a/b), significant changes within the company, e.g. relocation, change of name, change of the QM-system, etc...or as a result of a suspended certificate. For that purpose there will be appropriate communication(s) with the customer in advance of the audit to discuss the conditions for such special audit (7.2).

Contact
For detailed information, please contact us.

TÜV SÜD America
10 Centennial Drive
Peabody, MA  01960
(800) TUV-0123
info@tuvam.com
www.tuv-sud-america.com