SmartSuite

Framework / Quality & Safety / ISO Industry Standards

# IATF 16949:2016

IATF 16949:2016 is the IATF's automotive quality management standard, used with ISO 9001:2015 and certified only by IATF-recognized certification bodies.




## What it is

IATF 16949:2016 is the automotive quality management system standard published by the International Automotive Task Force (IATF). Its first edition appeared on 1 October 2016, it cancels and replaces ISO/TS 16949:2009, and it adds automotive requirements to ISO 9001:2015 for organizations that make automotive production and service parts. Certificates to ISO/TS 16949:2009 stopped being valid after 14 September 2018.

## At a glance

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| PUBLISHER<br>International Automotive Task Force (IATF) | TYPE<br>Standard | VERSION<br>IATF 16949:2016, 1st edition (1 October 2016) |
| EFFECTIVE<br>October 1, 2016 (ISO/TS 16949:2009 certificates not valid after September 14, 2018) | DOMAIN<br>Quality & Safety | FAMILY<br>ISO Industry Standards |
| REGION<br>International | INDUSTRY<br>Automotive | ADOPTION MODEL<br>Certification |
| IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY<br>High | | |

Source: iatfglobaloversight.org/iatf-publications/

## Why it matters

- **Customer requirements are listed** Clause 7.5.1.1 puts the customer-specific requirements that apply into the quality management system documentation, and the IATF's vehicle manufacturer members publish their own requirements for use with the standard.
- **Product safety has its own clause** Clause 4.4.1.2 covers product and manufacturing process characteristics that affect the safety performance of the final assembly, including those a customer defines.
- **Regulatory evidence reaches suppliers** Clauses 8.4.2.2 and 8.6.5 require the organization to confirm that purchased products meet the statutory and regulatory requirements of the countries involved, and to check traceability on the supplier's records.
- **Continuity plans must be tested** Clause 6.1.2.3 requires contingency plans for essential manufacturing and infrastructure equipment, and the IATF explains in FAQ 29 what a cyber-attack means for contingency plan testing.

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## How SmartSuite supports IATF 16949:2016

### Customer-Specific Requirements Register

List each customer whose requirements apply (clause 7.5.1.1) and link each requirement to the control and owner that meets it.

### Product Safety and Regulatory Evidence

Record safety characteristics, the countries of destination from the customer and supplier conformity evidence (4.4.1.2, 8.4.2.2, 8.6.5).

### Supplier Risk and Second-Party Audit Plan

Score suppliers on certification status, commodity complexity, launches and quality issues, and schedule second-party audits from the result (8.4.2.4.1).

### Process and Product Audit Schedule

Plan manufacturing process audits so every process and shift is covered in the three-year cycle, plus product audits by risk (9.2.2.3, 9.2.2.4).

### Contingency Plan Testing

Keep the risk analysis, alternative supply measures and test records for contingency plans, including cyber-attack scenarios (6.1.2.3).

### Nonconformance and Alternative Control Records

Track nonconforming product disposition and rendering-unusable evidence (8.7.1.7) and reviews of alternative process controls (8.5.6.1.1) in linked workflows.

## Common framework mappings

ISO 9001:2026

## Official resources

### IATF publications: IATF 16949:2016, Rules and Auditor Guide

The IATF's table of current editions and where to buy them from member associations.

iatfglobaloversight.org/iatf-publications

### IATF recognized certification bodies under contract

The IATF's list of certification bodies authorized to conduct IATF 16949:2016 certification.

iatfglobaloversight.org/certification-bodies/under-contract

### IATF 16949:2016 frequently asked questions

The IATF's FAQs that explain existing IATF 16949:2016 requirements, clause by clause.

iatfglobaloversight.org/iatf-169492016/iatf-169492016-faqs

### About IATF 16949:2016

The IATF's overview of how IATF 16949:2016 replaced ISO/TS 16949:2009.

iatfglobaloversight.org/iatf-169492016/about

## Frequently asked questions

### What does IATF 16949:2016 replace, and when did the transition end?

It cancels and replaces ISO/TS 16949:2009. The IATF's transition strategy says certificates to ISO/TS 16949:2009 were no longer valid after 14 September 2018, and that after 1 October 2017 audits were conducted only to IATF 16949.

### Why is IATF 16949 read together with ISO 9001:2015?

The IATF and ISO could not agree a licensing arrangement to publish one integrated document, so the IATF published a two-manual format (FAQ 1). IATF 16949:2016 supplements ISO 9001:2015 with automotive requirements, and the IATF keeps liaison status with ISO to stay aligned.

### Who can certify an organization to IATF 16949?

Only IATF-recognized certification bodies are authorized to conduct IATF 16949:2016 certification activity. They work under the Rules for Achieving IATF Recognition, 6th Edition, dated 1 January 2025, and the IATF publishes the list of certification bodies under contract.


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### Does an aftermarket parts maker need IATF 16949 certification?

Certification is optional for an organization that makes only automotive aftermarket replacement parts and no production or service parts, unless an automotive customer requires it (FAQ 30). To be certified, the organization must meet all the requirements of the standard.

### Is a second edition of IATF 16949 planned?

Yes. IATF Stakeholder Communiqué SC-2026-005 (July 2026) names five priorities: simplification and clarity, software quality assurance, Tier N supply chain management, launch management and customer-specific requirements. Publication is planned for mid-2027, the dates are indicative, and the end of transition will align with the end of the ISO 9001 transition.

License included / downloadable: No IATF 16949:2016 is a paid document sold through the IATF member associations and their distributors (AIAG, ANFIA, IATF France, SMMT, VDA QMC and others), and ISO 9001:2015 is bought separately from ISO. The IATF publishes its Sanctioned Interpretations and FAQs free of charge. The standard text is not included with the platform.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/iatf-16949-automotive-quality-management-system-standard