

What is it?

The ISO/TS 16949:2002 Certification Scheme is a means for qualifying suppliers to trade in the global automotive industry.

What is ISO/TS 16949?

ISO/TS 16949:2002 is a global Technical Specification based on harmonization of the automotive quality system requirements of the USA (QS-9000), Germany (VDA6.1), Italy (AVSQ) and France (EAQF) and embodies the requirements of ISO 9001:2000.

Why is it a Technical Specification and not an International standard?

The category of Technical Specification is a temporary one while experience is gained in the application and global support for the certification scheme is obtained. In due course the designation of technical specification may be removed and the standard regarded as a full international standard.

Why should it concern us?

It concerns all suppliers to the automotive industry because registration to ISO/TS 16949 may be a requirement of vehicle manufacturers and global first tier suppliers.

Will ISO/TS 16949 certification be mandatory?

The simple answer is no, unless otherwise specified by the customer. However suppliers to the vehicle manufacturers and second tier suppliers will be required to be third party registered to ISO 9001:2000 by an accredited third party certification body as a minimum.

What are the benefits?

The principle benefits are:-

- Improved product and process quality
- Additional confidence in global procurement
- Common quality system approach for subcontractor development

- Reduction of variation and increased efficiency.
- Reduction in 2nd party system audits
- Reduction in multiple 3rd party registrations and hence fees
- Common language

Who supports it?

Currently certification through the authorised registration scheme to ISO/TS 16949 is accepted as equivalent to their existing automotive quality system requirements by Ford, Daimler-Chrysler, General Motors, Fiat, Iveco, PSA Peugeot - Citroen, VW/Audi, BMW and Renault. It is also supported by the automotive trade associations of AIAG in USA, VDA in Germany, ANFIA in Italy, FIEV in France and SMMT in the UK.

To what type of suppliers does the scheme apply?

The scheme applies to production and service part suppliers and subcontractor sites providing, parts, materials, processing services such as plating and painting or other customer specified products.

Does it apply to vehicle distribution and dealerships?

It is not intended to apply to vehicle distribution and dealerships at the present time.

What if we ignore it?

Nothing will happen if you choose to ignore ISO/TS 16949 but in December 2006 the existing automotive quality system requirements will be withdrawn and replaced by ISO/TS 16949:2002.

Does ISO/TS 16949 replace QS-9000 and other existing automotive standards?

ISO/TS 16949 does not replace the existing quality system requirements QS-9000, AVSQ'94, EAQF'94 and VDA 6.1 until 15 December 2006.

What is IATF?

IATF stands for International Automotive Task Force - an ad hoc group formed by the representatives of vehicle manufacturers and automotive trade associations of USA, Germany, Italy, France and UK., who support the idea of alignment of quality system requirements.

We are going for QS-9000 registration and have just heard of ISO/TS 16949 - what should we do?

You should progress with your existing registration plans and consider an upgrade to ISO/TS 16949. The new specification can be applied as a progression from the existing standards. At this time, customer requirements still specify the existing standards, but state that certification to ISO/TS 16949 will be accepted as an alternative. If you are just starting, then you may wish to work towards ISO/TS 16949 from the outset. Either way, you have at the most until 15 December 2006 to address the new standard in your own time, before it is mandated by customers. If you supply DaimlerChrysler you have until June 2004.

If you supply vehicle manufacturers from more than one country, you may have to maintain compliance with QS-9000, VDA 6.1, AVSQ'94 or EAQF'94; this will mean at least two certification audits. By electing for registration to ISO/TS 16949 you will have only one quality system, one certification fee, one certification body and one surveillance programme.

Why should we seek ISO/TS 16949 registration when we are already registered to QS-9000?

QS-9000 does not satisfy the customer requirements of all the major European car makers. If you supply to vehicle manufacturers in more than one country you may have to maintain compliance with QS-9000, VDA 6.1, AVSQ'94 or EAQF'94 and be subject to multiple certification audits. By electing for registration to ISO/TS 16949 you will have only one quality system, one certification fee, one certification body and one surveillance programme. You will have to migrate to TS

16949 in any case before December 2006. As QS-9000 will be withdrawn.

How does ISO/TS 16949:2002 differ from QS-9000?

Additional requirements include the following:-

- all shifts to be staffed with personnel in charge of or delegated responsibility for quality
- employees to be motivated to achieve quality objectives
- compliance with all applicable government, safety and environmental regulations
- measurements during product realization to be defined, analysed and reported
- processes used in product realization to be managed, designed and verified
- inspection, testing and calibration laboratories to comply with ISO/IEC 17025
- on-the-job training to be provided in any new or modified job affecting quality
- personnel to be informed about the consequences for the customer of nonconformities with quality standards
- the effectiveness of servicing to be verified

How will the certification process differ from ISO 9000?

- The auditors will have demonstrated competency in auditing to the requirements of the automotive industries.
- Auditor competency is evaluated every three years.
- The industry regulates the accreditation bodies authorized to accredit certification bodies
- The industry regulates the certification bodies authorized to certify suppliers

- Certificates cannot be issued if there are any outstanding nonconformities.
- Decertification is initiated if customer complaints concern compliance with ISO/TS 16949

Where can we get copies of ISO/TS 16949?

Copies of ISO/TS 16949 can be obtained from either SMMT, VDA, AIAG, ANFIA or FIEV, from your national standards body or direct from ISO in Geneva www.iso.org

What support can we get to meet ISO/TS 16949?

Transition Support provides a range of training and consultancy services to help suppliers become registered to ISO/TS 16949. Contact us at Mail@transition-support.com

Transition Support Ltd
Building 7/4
Vantage Point Business Village
Mitcheldean
Gloucestershire GL17 0DD
United Kingdom

Tel: 00 44 (0)1594 546151
Fax: 00 44 (0)1594 546153
mail@transition-support.com

www.transition-support.com