



Rules for Achieving IATF Recognition 3rd Edition FAQ's

The *Rules for Achieving IATF Recognition, 3rd Edition* was published in 2008. In response to questions from IATF recognized certification bodies, the following FAQ's were determined and approved by the IATF.

A FAQ is an explanation of an existing rule or requirement.

Revised text is shown in **blue**.

FAQs 1 – 4 were issued January, 2009, FAQ 5-7 issued May 2009 and **FAQ 8 October 2009**.

Number	Rules reference	Question	Answer
1.	Certificate Content Requirements 5.13.m	Is it possible to conduct one audit for ISO/TS16949:2002 and other management system standards?	Previously Rules 2nd FAQ#26 regarding section 5 certification content requirements. If an IATF contracted certification body conducts one audit to satisfy management system standards in addition to ISO/TS16949:2002 the IATF Rules for Achieving IATF Recognition for ISO/TS16949:2002 shall be observed.
2.	Conducting On site Audit Activities 5.8	Where an organization and a supplier have common ownership, how is the supplier treated in the organization's audit?	Previously Rules 2nd FAQ#6 Where the supplier is at the same physical location as the organization, the supplier shall be audited as part of the organization see Rules 3rd edition 1.0. Where the supplier is at a different physical location to the organization, the supplier shall be addressed within the organization's QMS as a supplier (re: ISO/TS 16949:2002 – 7.4). "Supplier" in clause 7.4.1.2 of ISO/TS 16949:2002 refers to sites where production and/or service parts specified by the customer are manufactured. See also the definition of "manufacturing", 3.1.6 of ISO/TS 16949:2002.

Number	Rules reference	Question	Answer
3.	Audit planning all audits 5.7	When a client does not provide all the required information prior to the audit (Surveillance and Recertification) how should the certification body proceed?	<p><i>The text of 5.7 has been revised February, 2009. The new text is below, and the changes are highlighted in blue.</i></p> <p>The certification body shall ensure that an audit plan is established for each audit (initial, surveillance, recertification and special) to provide the basis for agreement regarding the conduct and scheduling of the audit activities.</p> <p>The audit planning activity shall be undertaken prior to arrival on site and shall include as inputs to the plan a review of the following information supplied by the client:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) all requirements of the client's quality management system implemented to meet the automotive requirements of those customers requiring ISO/TS 16949:2002 certification of their suppliers, even when these requirements go beyond ISO/TS 16949:2002 (i.e. customer specific requirements), b) the client processes taking into account their sequence and interactions, including remote support functions, c) current customer and internal performance data, internal audit and management review results, and the same information pertinent to any new customers since the previous audit, d) customer satisfaction and complaint summary, including verification of customer reports, scorecards and special status, e) follow up on issues from previous audits. <p>The certification body shall undertake an analysis of the information provided and based on actual or potential risk to the customer, product and processes in order to develop an audit plan demonstrating the prioritization of audit activities.</p> <p>In creating the audit plan consideration shall be given to timing of activities over consecutive days to give a sequence, which avoids unnecessary duplication of visits to one process.</p>

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			<p>Note: Guidance on audit planning can be found in ISO 19011:2002 and the IATF Auditor Guide for ISO/TS 16949.</p> <p>Following the audit planning activity the audit plan shall be communicated and the dates of the audit shall be agreed upon in advance with the client.</p> <p>In situations (surveillance and recertification audits) where all the information required is not provided by the client prior to the audit the on site audit shall commence with the planning of the audit through the review of all the required information with the management team. In these situations additional audit time should be added to the audit to enable the planning of the audit on site.</p> <p>Certification bodies' internal processes shall demonstrate the steps taken to obtain and review the data as part of their audit planning process prior to the audit.</p>
4.	Maintaining Auditor Certification 4.5	What methodology will IATF / Oversight use to judge the validity of continuing personal development hours?	<p>IATF / Oversight will accept Continuing Personal Development acquired in different ways ranging from informal self study to formal face to face class room training for both related subject matter (other management system) and directly related subject matter (automotive sector) see definitions in Rules 3rd 10.0. Based upon the following weighting system,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unstructured: 3 hours accepted as one CPD hour Including: open and distance learning which is not assessed and does not lead to a qualification, e.g. reading of professional and technical books or other publications and on the job training. • Semi-structured: 2 hours accepted as one CPD hour Including: open and distance learning which involves formal assessment and that result in the acquisition of a qualification e.g. IATF training modules within the auditor development process. The preparation and delivery of lectures and or training courses.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured: each hour is accepted as one CPD hour Including: open face to face training courses which result in the acquisition of a qualification. Active participation at professional body meetings and the participation in the development of standards. <p>The IATF restriction with regards unstructured CPD is that it cannot constitute more than 30% of the annual acceptable hours.</p> <p>Auditor CPD within the ADP System</p> <p>The training modules within the ADP shall be considered Semi-structured hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISO/TS16949: 4 hours completion = 2 hours CPD • NC Management: 4 hours completion = 2 hours CPD • Process Approach: 6 hours completion = 3 hours CPD • Auditing Core Tools & CSR's: 6 hours completion = 3 hours CPD
5.	Eligibility for certification to ISO/TS 16949: 2002 1.0	Is it allowed within the Rules 3 rd edition to issue a certificate to an OEM site which produces complete vehicles?	<p>Yes, it's allowed.</p> <p>For OEM vehicle assembly, "contract review" and the "contract" are represented by the internally documented marketing requirements for vehicle brand, mix and volumes.</p>
6.	Overall Decertification Process - 8.8	What is the definition of a special audit within the decertification process?	<p>A special audit is an on-site audit of a certified client to investigate a complaint, in response to changes at the client's site or to verify corrective actions for suspended client's ISO/TS 16949 certificate.</p> <p>For clarification, an onsite visit (audit to verify corrective actions as part of the nonconformity management process (see 5.11), often called a "follow-up audit"), is part of the initial, surveillance or recertification audit process and is not considered a special audit.</p>

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			Pre-audit (see 6.3) and initial audit Stage 1-Readiness review (see 6.4) are not to be considered as special audits too.
7.	Overall Decertification Process 8.8 & Verification 8.4	Should special audits be entered in the IATF database?	<p>Yes. If a client's ISO/TS 16949 certificate is <u>suspended</u> due to :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. one of the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.1 a) performance complaint against the client, or • 8.1 b) special status condition from an IATF subscribing customer, or • 8.1 c) surveillance audit containing nonconformities. 2. <u>and</u> a special audit is conducted on-site to verify the effective implementation of the corrective actions, the certification body shall enter this audit as special audit type in the IATF database within 120 calendar days from the start of the decertification process. <p>In the case where the certification body conducts the verification of corrective actions <u>offsite</u>, a special audit shall <u>not</u> be entered in the IATF database.</p>
8.	Maintaining Auditor Certification 4.5	Does the minimum CPD requirement of 20 hours apply to all auditors or only those auditors once they achieve "Green Status" in the ADP?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The minimum requirement for the auditor undertaking 20 hours continuing personal development per year which shall be a combination of directly related subject matter and related subject matter applies to all auditors.</p> <p>Therefore both the face to face training for new auditor qualification and the training modules within the ADP can be used to count towards the minimum hours based on the definitions in FAQ 4 above.</p>