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FAQ CERTIFICATION ACCORDING TO ISO/TS 22163

You would like to establish a continuous improvement process of your quality management and prove the high quality standard of your company in the rail vehicle industry with a certification according to ISO/TS 22163? In our FAQ, we provide you answers to the most common questions.

1. What is ISO/TS 22163?

Published in May 2017 by the International Standardization Organization (ISO), [ISO/TS 22163](#) is the internationally recognized quality standard drawn up by the Union des Industries Ferroviaires Européennes (UNIFE) for the rail vehicle industry. ISO/TS 22163 has replaced the previous International Industry Standard (IRIS) also established by UNIFE. It adopts the structure of the ISO 9001 quality management standard and supplements it with rail-specific requirements.

2. When did the new railway standard come into force?

ISO/TS 22163:2017 was published on May 24, 2017. The conversion from the old railway standard IRIS had to be completed by September 14, 2018. ISO/TS 22163 is now the internationally valid quality standard for the railway industry.

3. Why is it still called “IRIS Certification™”?

The certification process will continue to be called “IRIS Certification™” and will be carried out according to the specifications of UNIFE, the developer of the previous railway standard IRIS, using the “IRIS Audit Tool” software. The proven assessment sheet and assessment procedure will therefore remain in place.

4. Who can be certified according to the ISO/TS 22163 quality standard?

ISO/TS 22163 is applicable to all companies in the rail industry. Therefore, all railway operators and rail vehicle manufacturers as well as suppliers of infrastructure technology can be certified according to the railway standard.

5. How can my company benefit from ISO/TS 22163 IRIS certification?

Certification according to the ISO/TS 22163 railway standard provides numerous advantages enabling you to:

- **Prove your high quality standard**
- **Benefit from an effective project organization**
- **Meet the international requirements**
- **Establish a continuous improvement process**
- **Registered in the UNIFE database**
- **Increase your chances in tenders**
- **Enter new markets**
- **Gain a valuable competitive advantage**

6. What is the certification procedure according to ISO/TS 22163?

Certification according to ISO/TS 22163 is carried out by our experts in the following steps:

1. **Information and pre-audit (optional)**
Information meeting (by phone or in person), on-site project meeting and preparation for certification and optional pre-audit (recommended by UNIFE)

2. **Certification on site** Readiness analysis with assessment and review of the description of the management system, review of documented processes as well as optional post-audit (review of corrective actions)
3. **Audit report and evaluation** Documentation of the audit and evaluation of the audit results and the management system with the “IRIS Audit Tool” software
4. **Certificate and seal** After successfully completing the certification process, you will receive your certificate registered with UNIFE as well as the **DEKRA test seal** (with a maximum term of three years) and will be included in the UNIFE online portal
5. **First surveillance audit** Every 12 months a surveillance audit is carried out to check the maintenance and further development of your management system
6. **Second surveillance audit** Repeated auditing of the practical implementation of the management system
7. **Recertification** Before the end of the three-year term, steps 2. to 6. are repeated in the recertification audit.

7. Can ISO/TS 22163 be combined with other certifications?

Yes, the railway standard can either be established as an independent quality management system in your company or combined with other management systems. The combinations are facilitated by the uniform high-level structure (HLS) of most management systems. Such a combination could, for example, certify a quality management system according to **ISO 9001**, an environmental management system according to **ISO 14001** or an energy management system according to **ISO 50001**.

Other services from which you benefit

You also have the opportunity to have other management systems, e.g. ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 and their combinations, certified by us. With more than 40 international approvals and accreditations, we are happy to help you achieve the desired certifications in a time- and cost-saving manner. In addition, the DEKRA Group offers you all you need to know about safety:

- **Training and education, e.g. with the DEKRA Academy Personnel certifications, e.g. for lead auditors**
- **Product testing and certification, e.g. for automotive components and accessories**

The DEKRA seal of excellence



Offer your customers reliability and quality – with our **DEKRA seal!**

The DEKRA seal stands for highest reliability – across different industries and internationally. It will create trust and give your customers the certainty of being on the safe side. Our seal will be your strength. Use it as an image bearer and marketing tool. We will be pleased to help you.

Do you have further questions about certification according to the ISO/TS 22163 railway standard? Contact us now!

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