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## UPDATE IATF 16949 CERTIFICATION

**Published by the IATF in February 2021, the Rules 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Sanctioned Interpretations (SIs) provides updated and detailed clarifications addressing auditing requirements in the IATF OEM supply chain.**

### **The purpose of the IATF**

A group made up of manufacturers and relevant trade associations, the International Automotive Task Force (IATF) works to ensure quality products and services within the automotive industry supply chain.

Setting criteria for an enhanced quality management system (QMS), certification according to IATF 16949 is the internationally accepted norm to document the effectiveness of an enhanced QMS for suppliers in the production, accessories, or services sectors. IATF 16949 standards apply to any organization involved in the making or fabricating of production materials and service parts as well as assembly, heat treatment, welding, painting, plating or other finishing services.

### **Understanding new Sanctioned Interpretations for audits**

Now in its 5th edition, IATF rules establish requirements for certification body status, auditor qualifications and the audit process as well as IATF 16949 QMS certification. In February 2021, the IATF published its Rules 5th Edition Sanctioned Interpretations (SIs) numbers 26 to 28. Related to sections 5.2 (Audit Day Determination), 5.7.2 (Audit Plan) and Annex 3 (Table for Documenting the Output of Audit Planning Process), these changes setting a new basis for nonconformity go into effect as of June 30, 2021.

The new SI found in section 5.2r addresses the criteria for supplementary hours to be added to normal audit days in cases where IATF OEM

quality and/or delivery targets specified in the scorecard(s) are not being met. Increased audit time is determined before rounding per 5.2p and only after the application of all permitted reductions. Extra audit time is then used to review the corrective actions relative to quality and delivery goals as well as any risk associated to similar products or processes.

### Calculating supplemental audit hours

The number of additional minimum audit hours depends on the organization's number of employees as well as how many IATF OEM accounts are being affected by missed quality and delivery targets. Exceptions are exclusively granted no additional audit hours only when evidence proving the effective implementation of effective corrective actions is provided and accepted.

### Determining the audit plan

Corporate audits schemes rely on accredited independent certification bodies to conduct comprehensive and reliable analysis of any substandard supplier. Objective auditors inspect and evaluate shortcomings prioritized according to customer risk, performance trends and inefficient processes with reference to the information provided in section 5.7.1.

The Table of Documenting the Output of Auditing Planning Process (Annex 3) has been updated according to the latest IATF OEM reports/scorecards and achievement objectives in order to align audit planning output with the risk-based audit day calculation methodology.

Although no modification to the contract between the certification body (CB) and the client is required because Specific Certification Conditions refer to all valid rules including SIs, this update does bring some changes to note. All certified organizations serving IATF OEM customers are now required to provide all IATF OEM scorecards three months ahead of any planned audit. If IATF OEM quality and delivery performance targets are not being met, the CB will increase audit time according to the new rules. Extra audit time is also required in cases where the CB auditor discovers missed IATF OEM quality and delivery targets during the minimum 1-hour pre-audit data verification and changes review. Modified SIs can be viewed in full [here](#).

**Our experts are happy to answer your questions about IATF rules and certification. Get in touch today!**

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