



# Certify Your Automotive Quality Management System

**ISO/TS 16949:2009**

## The ISO/TS (Technical Specification) 16949:2009

ISO/TS 16949:2009 is an international Quality Management Systems automotive “sector-specific” technical specification based on ISO 9001:2008.

The ISO/TS 16949 was jointly developed by the International Automotive Task Force (IATF) members and the ISO/TC 176 committees of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for approval and publication.

This document, plus the individual OEM customer-specific requirements, defines the quality system requirements for use in the automotive supply chain to which the suppliers must be registered to be “recognized” by the IATF.

## Third Party Registrars

The IATF has developed its own unique and proprietary registration process and requirements for organization registration. It also conducts its own qualifying of registrars and registrar auditors. The registration scheme includes common rules for consistent global registration processes.

## ISO/TS 16949:2009 (TS-3)

ISO/TS 16949:2009, nicknamed TS-3, was approved and issued in 2009 as an automotive sector-specific Quality Management System set of requirements that uses ISO 9001:2008 (verbatim) as its base. It replaced ISO/TS 16949:2002 based on ISO 9001:2000.

As an international specification:

- Anyone can acquire a copy of this International Technical Specification, ISO/TS 16949:2009, through ANSI or other locations, such as [www.AIAG.org](http://www.AIAG.org).
- Anyone can acquire a copy of the “Rules for Achieving IATF Recognition.”
- Anyone can utilize this document to improve their Quality Management Systems.
- Any organization that meets the applicability rules (noted below) can be certified by a third party certification body/registrar.

## Applicability

The IATF has asked all registrars to assure that TS-3 registrants meet the following applicability requirements:

- The TS-3 definition of supplier applicability must apply to the organization seeking registration (see 3.1.6 in TS-3).
- Any tier may be registered if it has a direct customer in the automotive supply chain (most affected are Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers). Distributors cannot be registered to TS-3.

## Third Edition: “Rules”

In addition to the ISO/TS 16949:2009 technical specification, the IATF established a governing document called “Rules for Achieving IATF Recognition.” The 3rd Edition “Rules” were published 1 October 2008, and include criteria for the registrar, registrar audit process, auditor qualification, certification requirements and expectations for the registering organization. The “Rules” mandate a two-stage process for registration.

Stage 1, the “Readiness Review,” is conducted on-site for a minimum of one or two days. Its single purpose is to determine whether an organization may proceed to a Stage 2 registration audit. The Stage 1 audit is required even if the organization has elected to undergo a Pre-Assessment Audit. Furthermore, each value-added site must be independently assessed for readiness. Stage 2 is the full registration audit, and it must take place within 90 days of the Stage 1 visit. If it is not feasible to proceed with the Stage 2 audit within that 90-day period, a second Stage 1 audit must be conducted.

## Important Rule Changes

- The Pre-Assessment auditors cannot perform the registration audits
- Pre-Assessment on-site time is limited to 80% of Stage 2 on-site time
- Corporate quoting schemes are permitted for manufacturing/value added sites only. Corporate refers to the quoting scheme only. Each value added site must have a separate report and separate certificate issued
- Sampling of sites is not permitted
- For each subsequent recertification and surveillance cycle, different auditors must be used
- Corrective action responses must be in Seven- or Eight-Discipline method, depending on the customer
- For Major (Hold) corrective actions, the client must determine root cause and implement correction within 20 days from the end of the site audit
- Surveillance events must be of equal duration
- Renewal Audit must occur within 3 years of the previous initial or re-registration (renewal) event and well before the certificate expiry date to prevent a certification lapse (that would require a full registration re-assessment)
- The certificate must be issued within 120 days of the last day on site at the initial or renewal event

## Satisfying Your Automotive Customer

Subscribing automotive OEM companies will only recognize and accept a TS-3 registration which has been conducted using the prescribed registration process (“Rules” available from the IAOB) and conducted by third party registrars that have been selected by the IAOB/IATF.

Registration to TS-3 by an IATF “selected” registrar is required before a certificate can show the IATF mark and indicate IATF recognition.

## The Certification Process

Certification can happen fairly quickly once your management system is ready. The typical certification process involves an on-site Pre-Assessment if you desire, a stage-1 Readiness Review of your system, the stage-2 Certification Audit itself, closure of any open issues, a review by the registrar, and the issuance of your certificate. Certification costs are typically small compared to the cost of implementing the system. Fees are typically driven by the size of your company, complexity, and audit days required. With some basic information about your company, SRI can easily provide a no-obligation, detailed cost proposal for your consideration.

## Steps for ISO/TS 16949 Registration:

1. Contact SRI for answers to questions and request an information package about SRI's registration steps.
2. Review the information, complete, and return the registration survey to SRI
3. SRI will provide a detailed, formal cost proposal based on your survey information
4. SRI will conduct a Pre-Assessment, if desired
5. An on-site Stage 1 Readiness Review of your system will be conducted and a full report issued
6. SRI will conduct a Stage 2 audit: a full on-site examination of objective evidence that confirms your management system meets the ISO/TS 16949 requirements. The Stage 2 audit concludes with a post-audit conference, review of results, and our assessor's recommendation
7. You submit any corrective action responses to SRI, which the assessor reviews for acceptance and closure
8. Once your company meets all registration requirements, you will need to complete a registration agreement
9. SRI will issue a registration certificate and include your company in relevant public listings
10. SRI will conduct surveillance audits at regular intervals (yearly, for example) to ensure continued conformance of your system

## Selecting Your Registrar

Your selection of a registrar can be the start of a relationship that will likely be in place for a long time. Value to you and your business comes from the expertise and seniority of your auditor first and foremost. Consistent, fair, and thorough audits ensure you get value each time your auditor visits. Also, look for registrars that invest in the training and support of its auditor. The better the registrar supports its auditors, the better the auditor will serve you.

Your accredited registrar should also offer one-on-one support, responsiveness, 24/7 access to your certification information, global recognition, the full range of standards your business will need, training services, and industry leadership. Each country has its own accreditation body recognized by the IATF. In the U.S., it is the IAOB.

Choose only an accredited registrar. Accreditation of your registrar means it underwent a rigorous audit and review process of its capabilities, and on-going surveillances are required to maintain its

credentials. Often, the certificates of unaccredited registrars are not accepted by your customers. Registrars can also be accredited by other bodies, such as RvA, ANAB, or the ACC (for RC14001). Be sure the registrars you evaluate are also accredited for the other standards you need.

## SRI is a Full-Service, Accredited Registrar

As acceptance of international standards has grown, so has SRI. Established in 1991, **SRI was one of the first five registrars in the U.S.** SRI now serves over 40 major manufacturing and services industries across North America, Asia, and Europe.

## SRI Auditors Make the Difference

From its leadership role, SRI has built its business by employing the best auditors in the field. Our senior auditors are seasoned professionals averaging more than 25 years of experience. They know the standards and the industry so they can step right in and add value to your audit.

We know you have a choice.

## Here's why you should choose SRI:

- Accredited by ANAB, RvA, and the IAOB/IATF, SRI offers registration to a **full range of standards** to meet all your business needs
- SRI's **web-based e-VENTS** system, integrated with our fully automated operation support, puts all your sites' audit schedules, plans, and results at your fingertips when you need it, where you need it
- We offer **Pre-Assessments** and two-stage **Registration and Renewal audits** that give you one-on-one time with a lead auditor and an early look at your system, which leads to a smoother registration audit
- SRI's **no-surprises, practical, open-book approach** builds strong, long-lasting relationships
- We are one of the **top five U.S. owned and operated** registrars, and among the first to be ISO/TS 16949 qualified. Decisions regarding your business and registration are made right here by us
- SRI's **membership** in key QMS and EMS technical advisory groups, and participation in industry standards development and oversight, ensure you are among the first to know about changes that will affect your business
- **Training (public)** conducted by our lead auditors on standards and requirements gives you the practical, hands-on knowledge you need to succeed
- **Our organization is the right size** to provide responsive, one-on-one service to every client. We are ready when you need us

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