

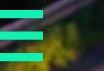
Automotive

Your changing landscape

IATF 16949 6th Edition: Answering
your frequently asked questions

LRQA

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Understanding IATF 16949 6th Edition rules

The 6th Edition of the IATF 16949 Rules, which govern the certification and audit processes, was published on March 31, 2024.

These new rules will become effective on January 1, 2025, replacing the previous 5th Edition. This update does not change the IATF 16949:2016 standard itself but modifies the guidelines for audits and certification procedures.



Frequently asked questions

Q

What is IATF 16949?

A

IATF 16949 is a global quality management system standard specifically designed for the automotive sector. It aims to harmonise the different assessment and certification systems worldwide in the supply chain for automotive parts.

[Find out more about LRQA's IATF 16949 solutions →](#)

Q

When was IATF 16949 first published?

A

IATF 16949 was originally published in October 2016. It replaced ISO/TS 16949:2009.

Q

What is the IATF 16949 6th Edition?

A

The 6th Edition refers to the updated rules for audits and certification processes under the IATF 16949 standard. These updates do not change the IATF 16949:2016 standard itself but revise the guidelines for conducting audits.

Q

When was the 6th Edition of the IATF 16949 Rules published?

A

The 6th Edition of the IATF 16949 Rules was published on March 31, 2024



Q

When will the 6th Edition rules come into effect?

A

The new rules will become effective on January 1, 2025. From this date, all audits will be conducted according to the new 6th Edition rules, and the previous 5th Edition rules will become obsolete.

Q

Will there be any changes to the IATF 16949:2016 standard itself?

A

No, the IATF 16949:2016 standard remains unchanged. The changes pertain solely to the rules governing the audit and certification processes.

Q

What are some significant changes in the 6th Edition rules?

A

- Extended Manufacturing Site (EMS): Redefined to be within 10 miles (16 km) and 60 minutes driving distance from the main site. Sites not meeting this definition will be reclassified.
- Surveillance Audit Intervals: Only two surveillance visits are permitted in each 3-year audit cycle.
- Audit Duration: Includes both audit days and additional audit time for various activities.
- Non-conformity Management: Stricter timelines for addressing major and minor non-conformities.
- Virtual Audits: Permitted only for Standalone Remote Supporting Locations under specific conditions.

Q

What are the new requirements for surveillance audit intervals?

A

Surveillance visits with 6-monthly and 9-monthly intervals are no longer permitted. Only two surveillance visits are allowed in each 3-year audit cycle. Clients on these intervals must transition to 12-monthly contracts.



Q

How has audit duration been affected by the new rules?

A

Audit duration now includes additional audit time for activities such as verification of nonconformities, translation time, and investigation of significant changes. A minimum of 1.5 days is required for regular visits at main manufacturing sites, and at least 30% of the audit time must be spent on the client's manufacturing process.

Q

What changes are there in non-conformity management?

A

- Major NCs: Corrective actions must be submitted within 15 days and completed within 60 days.
- Minor NCs: Corrective actions must be submitted within 60 days.
- Failure to meet these timelines will result in the invalidation of the recent visit and withdrawal of certificates.

Q

Can virtual audits be conducted under the new rules?

A

Virtual audits are permissible only for Standalone Remote Supporting Locations and must follow specific guidelines. Onsite audits are mandatory for Main manufacturing sites regardless of the client's remote work setup.

Q

What is the impact of the new rules on corporate clients?

A

For clients under a corporate structure, the previous reductions in mandatory calculations are no longer applicable. All corporate clients will now have a uniform 15% reduction applied to their minimum audit days.



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About LRQA:

LRQA is a leading global assurance partner, bringing together decades of unrivalled expertise in assessment, advisory, inspection and cybersecurity services – underpinned by data-driven insights – to help its clients navigate a new era of risk.

Operating in more than 150 countries with a team of more than 5,000 people, LRQA's award-winning compliance, supply chain, cybersecurity and ESG specialists help more than 60,000 clients across almost every sector to anticipate, mitigate and manage risk wherever they operate.

Get in touch

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