

ISO/TS 16949

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In December 2003, the ISO 9001 / 2 : 1994 standard, which forms the basis for QS 9000, expired as a valid standard.

The alternate standard, QA 9000 has no advancements and was phased out by 2006.

In view of this, most automotive organizations, have already announced deadlines for transition to ISO/TS 16949:2002.

This newsletter, provides a technical backgrounder on the ISO/TS 16949:2002.

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Technical FAQs on ISO/TS 16949 : 2002

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■ **What is ISO/TS 16949?**

ISO/TS 16949 is an ISO Technical Specification which aligns existing automotive quality system requirements within the global automotive industry. In conjunction with ISO 9001/9002:1994, ISO/TS 16949 specifies the quality system requirements for the design/development, production, and where relevant, installation and servicing of automotive-related products.

ISO/TS 16949 fuses the European variants of ISO 9001, VDA 6.1 (German), AVQS (Italian) and EAQF (French) and former US Automotive QS-9000. ISO/TS 16949 format-structure is more QS (ISO 9001:1994) like than it is VDA 6.1.

■ **Who are the authors of ISO/TS 16949?**

ISO/TS 16949 was written by the International Automotive Task Force (IATF). The IATF consists of an international group of vehicle manufactures including Ford, GM and Daimler Chrysler, as well as the following automotive trade associations: AIAG (America), VDA / QMC (Germany), SMMT (UK), ANFIA (Italy), CCFA and FIEV (France). Representatives and sub-committees of TC 176 also helped to prepare ISO/TS 16949.

■ **Will ISO/TS 16949 be accepted in addition to current automotive standards such as QS-9000 and VDA 6.1?**

Yes. Along with customer specific requirements, ISO/TS 16949 will satisfy the following automotive quality system standards:

- QS-9000 (American)
- VDA 6.1 (German)
- AVSQ (Italian), and
- EASF (French)

■ **Which vehicle manufacturers will accept ISO/TS 16949?**

Ford, GM (including Opel Vauxhall), Daimler Chrysler, BMW, Fiat, PSA Peugeot-Citroen, Renault SA and Volkswagen all support ISO/TS 16949.

■ **What are the benefits of ISO/TS 16949?**

Clients that provide automotive products to international markets will have the option of maintaining one quality system registration to meet multiple customer quality requirements.

In addition to avoiding multiple certification audits, ISO/TS 16949 has been designed to improve product and process quality while increasing efficiency and reducing variation.

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■ **What is the role of accredited laboratories in ISO/TS 16949?**

The new standard - ISO/TS 16949 emphasizes the use of "ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratories", just as the 3rd revision of QS 9000 did.

This means that any testing and calibration laboratory services used by the manufacturer has to be ISO/IEC accredited or equivalent.

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- Which manufacturer(s) have adopted ISO/TS 16949 and its requirement of “Accredited Laboratory”?

Ford's new of Customer Specific Requirements, released in October 2003, requires all Laboratories to be ISO/IEC 17025 accredited. An extract is provided below:

- “ **Clause 4.36: Laboratory Requirements (ISO/TS 16949:2002 cl. 7.6.3, 7.6.3.2)**

Commercial / independent laboratory facilities shall be approved by the organization prior to use. The acceptance criteria should be based on the latest ISO/IEC 17025 (or national equivalent), and shall be documented. Alternative methods or criteria shall be approved in writing by Supplier Technical Assistance. ”

Also, GM's new edition of Customer Specific Requirements based on ISO/TS 16949 released in October 2003, requires its suppliers to use accredited laboratories for testing, calibration and accreditation services. An extract from its definitions is produced below:

“ **Clause 3.1 Accredited Laboratory** _

Accredited Laboratory is one that has been reviewed and approved by a nationally-recognized accreditation body, or as an alternative a customer recognized accreditation body, conforming to ISO/IEC Guide 58 for calibration or test laboratory accreditation to ISO/IEC Guide 17025, or national equivalent. “

- **Who are the IATF?**

The IATF is an ad hoc group of OEM's and automotive trade associations whose common goal is to improve the quality of products to automotive customers worldwide. IATF members include the Big 3, along with Fiat, Citroen, VW, Renault and national automotive trade associations from the US, Germany, UK, Italy and France. Additionally, the Japanese vehicle association, JAMA, has been involved with the IATF's efforts to develop TS 16949.

- Does ISO/TS 16949 replace QS 9000, VDA 6.1, etc?

No - ISO/TS 16949 provides an option for the automotive supply chain. Although, updating to the ISO/TS 16949 has added benefits, because of the increased value that can be gained from its process-approach based methodology, or, to satisfy Customer requirements that may require registration to multiple standards (e.g. In situation where the organization has a customer requiring QS 9000 and another requiring VDA 6.1 it may be possible to satisfy both via ISO/TS 16949, with customer concurrence).

Additionally, several other factors make registration to ISO/TS 16949 attractive. First, certificates issued to the ISO 9001/2:1994 standard, which forms the basis for QS 9000, will no longer be valid as of Dec 2003. Organizations requiring ISO certification to satisfy non-automotive customer requirements would need to update their systems.

Of major impact to the automotive supply base has been the recent announcements by several OEM's of deadline dates for ISO/TS 16949:2002 upgrades:

- Ford and GM announced that as of Dec 14, 2006, the QS 9000 standard will expire and be replaced by ISO/TS 16949:2002.
- DaimlerChrysler has issued a July 1, 2004 mandate for their suppliers.
- PSA Peugeot Citroen announced a July 1, 2004 deadline for ISO/TS 16949:2002 upgrade for EAQF certified suppliers and a
- December 15, 2004 deadline for ISO/TS 16949:1999 suppliers.

Clearly, the future belongs to TS 16949.



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In India, NABL (National Accreditation Board for testing & Calibration, DoST) is the apex body for accrediting inspection, testing, and calibration laboratories.

CLL is ISO/IEC 17025 accredited for Testing & Calibration since 1999.

For more information on CLL's testing & calibration services, email us at info@choksilab.com .

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