

IATF - International Automotive Task Force Rules for achieving and maintaining IATF Recognition IATF Rules 6th Edition – Sanctioned Interpretations

The Rules for achieving and maintaining IATF Recognition 6th Edition for IATF 16949 ("Rules 6th Edition") was published in April 2024 and is effective 1 January 2025. The following Sanctioned Interpretations were determined and approved by the IATF. Unless otherwise indicated, Sanctioned Interpretations are applicable upon publication.

Revised text is shown in blue.

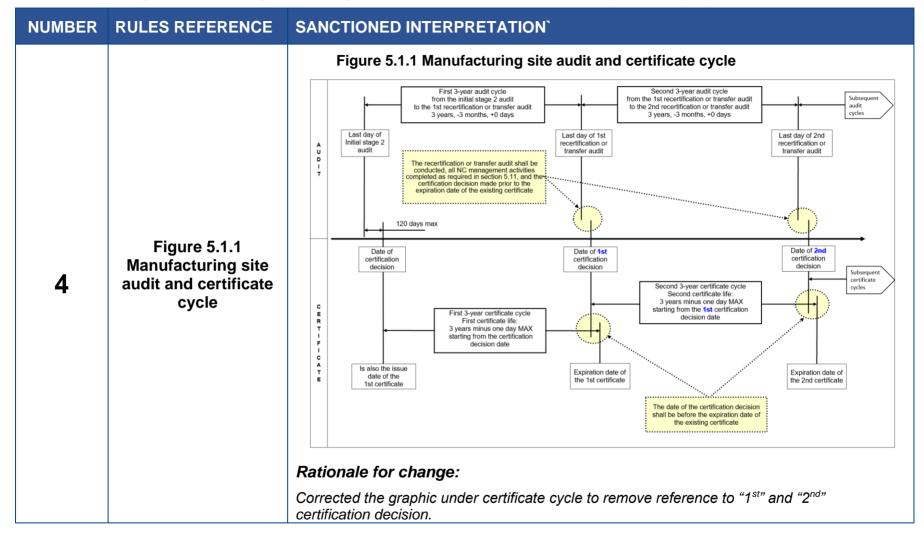
A Sanctioned Interpretation changes the interpretation of a rule or a requirement which itself then becomes the basis for a nonconformity.

SI 1 – SI 17 issued November 2024, effective 1 January 2025

NUMBER	RULES REFERENCE	SANCTIONED INTERPRETATION`							
1	Foreword	Requests for permission to reproduce and/or translate this document or any extract from it must be addressed to one of the organizations below: Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG/USA) Associazione Nazionale Filiera Industria Automobilistica (ANFIA/Italy) International Automotive Task Force France (IATF France/France) IATF France (France) The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Limited (SMMT/UK) Verband der Automobilindustrie e.V. — Qualitäts Management Center (VDA QMC/Germany) Rationale for change: Clarified the names of the copyright owners in France, UK, and Germany.							
2	Global overview of the first 3-year IATF 16949 certification cycle	Global overview of the first 3-year IATF 16949 certification cycle Plan for stage 2 (5.7.1 & 5.7.2) Conduct audit of remote support locations where applicable (5.5.1 - 5.5.2) Conduct stage 2 certification audit (5.8 & 6.2.9) Conduct stage 2 certification audit (5.8 & 6.4) Issue draft audit report at closing meeting (5.10) Rationale for change: Conduct surveillance audit (5.8 & 6.7) in the "Conduct surveillance audit" step.							







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5	5.2 Determining the audit duration for initial certification, surveillance, recertification, and transfer audits	When determining the audit duration and developing an audit plan (see section 5.7.2), the certification body shall consider, at minimum, the following: a) -p) all other requirements of section 5.2 remain unchanged q) When the audited client location does not meet the IATF OEM quality and/or delivery targets specified in the IATF OEM scorecard(s) submitted with audit planning information and/or the current scorecards reviewed in the opening meeting, the certification body shall add "additional audit time" to the current audit plan as defined in Table 5.2 q. The "additional audit time" shall be used to verify the effective implementation of the systemic corrective actions associated with the IATF OEM quality and/or delivery targets that are not being met and the associated risk to similar processes and/or products. The only exception is if the client can provide evidence of verification of the effectiveness of the implemented systemic corrective actions for the quality and/or delivery performance issues, in which case no increase is applied. Where it is not possible to add the additional time to the current audit plan, the certification body shall conduct a special audit within sixty (60) calendar days of the closing meeting date of the audit (see section 7.2 e b]). **Rationale for change:** **Corrected the cross reference from section 7.2 c) to 7.2 b).**



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7	5.7	Audit start and end dates for surveillance, recertification, and transfer audits shall be confirmed with the client no less than ninety (90) calendar days before the audit due date (see section 10.0). I an exceptional situation requires a change to a confirmed audit date, the certification body shall retain justification as a part of the audit record.					
	Audit Planning	The remainder of section 5.7 remains unchanged					
		Rationale for change:					
		To clarify what dates must be confirmed ninety calendar days before the audit due date.					
	5.10 Audit reporting	The audit team shall analyze all information and objective evidence gathered during the audit and agree on the audit conclusion.					
		The audit team shall use the IATF Common Audit Report Application (IATF CARA) when creating the draft and final audit reports and for the issuance of nonconformities to the client. All mandatory fields within the IATF CARA shall be completed with sufficient detail and objective evidence to allow the reader to comprehend the audit coverage, findings, results, and conclusions.					
8		The certification body shall issue the draft audit report and the nonconformity management record(s), where applicable, to the client at the audit closing meeting along with the link to the IATF Common Audit Report Application for Nonconformity Management (IATF NC CARA).					
		The remainder of section 5.10 remains unchanged					
		Rationale for change:					
		To clarify the term "nonconformity management record" includes the client's response and the term "nonconformity record" is just the CB auditor's finding and to clarify the IATF NC CARA link is to be provided at the closing meeting.					
	5.11.4 Verification of major nonconformity	In cases of a major nonconformity, the certification body shall conduct a one-time, onsite special audit (see section 7.2 d c]) for the verification of the effective implementation of systemic corrective actions within a maximum of ninety (90) calendar days from the closing meeting date of the audit.					
9		The remainder of section 5.11.4 remains unchanged.					
		Rationale for change:					
		Corrected the cross reference from section 7.2 d) to 7.2 c)					



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	5.12	The certification decision shall be made within a maximum of one-hundred-twenty (120) calendar days from the last day of a special audit (see section 7.2 e), f), g) and h)) unless the special audit is being conducted within the decertification process timing.
10	Technical review and certification decision	Rationale for change:
		Added clarification to which type of special audits requires a certification decision within one-hundred-twenty (120) calendar days.
		The certification body shall require a representative of the applicant organization to provide the necessary information to enable the certification body to decide on certification feasibility and to establish a complete quotation. The information required shall include, at minimum:
		a) – n) …these requirements remain unchanged
11	6.1.1 Application for certification	o) All IATF 16949 certifications within the last three (3) years, the status of the certificate(s), and all final audit reports and all nonconformity management records from the last three (3) years of certification, including evidence that all nonconformity responses have been accepted and all verification activities that should have been completed by the previous certification body were conducted as required (see section 5.11). If the certification body is unable to determine the reason for the applicant organization's certification withdrawal from the information provided, the certification body shall contact its relevant oversight office to obtain information on the reason for the withdrawal.
		p) – r) all other requirements remain unchanged
		Rationale for change:
		To clarify the term "nonconformity management record" includes the client's response and the term "nonconformity record" is just the CB auditor's finding.

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		Within seven (7) calendar days of a legal contract being signed with the client, the new certification body shall indicate the transfer in the IATF Database by creating the client record and completing the information required in the transfer confirmation feature.				
12	7.1 Transfer Audit	The new certification body shall advise the client to notify the previous certification body about its intent to transfer (see section 3.2 i- j]).				
		The remainder of section 7.1.2 remains unchanged.				
		Rationale for change:				
		Corrected the cross reference from 3.2 i) to 3.2 j).				
13	7.1.2 Transfer pre- conditions	 7.1.2 7.1.1 Transfer audit pre-conditions At the start of the transfer audit, the following conditions shall be met for the client location under transfer: a) -h)these requirements remain unchanged. i) The client provided the new certification body with the final audit reports and nonconformity management records from the previous three (3) years. The information provided shall include evidence that client responses to all previously issued nonconformities have been accepted and all verification activities that should have been completed by the previous certification body were conducted as required (see section 5.11). Wherever possible, open issues from the points above shall be resolved by the previous 				
		certification body and the client.				
		Rationale for change:				
		To correct the section header number from 7.1.2 to 7.1.1. To clarify the term "nonconformity management record" includes the client's response and the term "nonconformity record" is just the CB auditor's finding.				

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		Certification body (IATF-recognized) The Named Certification Body, together with all Affiliates that satisfy the conditions required to conduct IATF Certification Activities pursuant to sections 1.6.1 and 1.6.2 in the "Agreement".
		Certificate scope statement
14	10.0 Definitions	The statement displayed on the IATF 16949 certificate or the letter of conformance that indicates reflects the manufacturing processes and, where applicable, product design responsibility, covered the products being designed and/or manufactured under the quality management system. The certificate scope statement enly reflects may also include the categories of automotive products the client manufactures. is manufacturing at the site that is being certified, and, where applicable, indicates the client's responsibility for their design. The certificate scope statement may also include the client's manufacturing processes and/or technologies used to further convey the character of the automotive products.
		Consecutive working days
		Calendar days Regular working days of the client over which an audit is conducted in succession and without interruption.
		Rationale for change:
		Align the words in section 10.0 with terms used in section 5.7 and 5.7.2 related to client working days, section 5.13 for certificate scope statement and to remove a reference in the sections in the CB Agreement that changed.

NUMBER	RULES REFERENCE	SANCTIO	NED	INTERPRI	ETATIO	ON,				
		Annex 1 – Example 2 & 4 Example 2 1 single manufacturing site with 1 extended manufacturing site (main site: 550 employees, EMS: 40 employees) 1 permitted reduction (no design responsibility) No standalone remote support locations Total number of employees = 590 (550 + 40)								
		Site	Year	Type of audit	Current number o employee		ules res	n-design ponsible duction	Calculated minimum audit days	Minimum audit day requirement (rounded up to nearest 1/2 day)
		1 (main + EMS)		Initial Stage 2	590	10.5		15%	(10.5 days * 0.85) = 8.925	9.0
		1 (main + EMS)		Surveillance	590	5.25			(5.25 days * 0.85) = 4.462 5	4.5
		1 (main + EMS)		Surveillance	590	5.25			(5.25 days * 0.85) = 4.4625	4.5
		1 (main + EMS)		Recertification	590	7.0		15%	(7.0 days * 0.85) = 5.95	6.0
		(ssumes no changes	_	_				
15	Example 4	Total number of el		,						Minimum audit day
		Site	Year	Type of audit	Current number of employees		Upgrade rom LOC	Non-design responsible reduction	Calculated minimum audit da	requirement (rounded up to nearest 1/2 day)
		1 (Main + EMS)	0	Initial Stage 2	590	10.5	^15%	15%	(10.5 days * 0.70) = 7.35	7.5
		1 (Main + EMS)	1	Surveillance	590	5.25		15%	(5.25 days * 0.85) = 4.462	
		1 (Main + EMS)	2	Surveillance	590	5.25		15%	(5.25 days * 0.85) = 4.462	
		1 (Main + EMS)	3	Recertification	590	7.0		15%	(7.0 days * 0.85) = 5.95	6.0
		Note 1: Assumes no changes over the 3-year audit cycle to number of employees, certification scope, etc. ^Note 2: Rules 5.4 states that when combining reductions, the maximum possible audit day reduction is thirty percent (30%). In this case, the upgrade from a Letter of Conformance (LOC) to certification can only be a 15% reduction to be able to combine the reductions and meet the 30% maximum allowed.								
				er of Conformance (LO	C) to certification	on can only be a 15%	reduction	o be able to et	ombine the reductions and meet	
		In this example the s	allowed.	,	is audited by a	different certification	body; there	efore, the emp	loyees at that location are not inc	the 30% maximum
		In this example the s	allowed. standalone , and the to	remote support location otal calculated minimum	is audited by a	different certification	body; there	efore, the emp	loyees at that location are not inc	the 30% maximum





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		Example 7 Corporate certification structure 3 single manufacturing sites (site 1: 590 employees, site 2: 800 employees, site 3: 850 employees) 2 standalone remote locations, including a central location (Total of 125 employees) 2 permitted reductions (non-design responsibility and corporate certification structure) Using the apportionment method								
		Site 1 2 2 3	Number of employees at site 590 800 850 Total = 2,240	Apportionment ratio (Employees at site / total number of employees [2240]) 26% 36% 38% Total = 100%	Number of employees apportioned from SA- RSLs (Total number of employees at SA-RSLs 125) 1 Apportionment ratio) 32 45 48 Total = 125	Total number of employees at audited entity used for minimum audit day calculation 622 845 898 Total = 2,365				
		Calculation for Stage 2 A	udit:							
		Site	Number of employees at site	Minimum audit day requirement, Rules Table 5.2	Non-design responsible reduction	Corporate certification structure reduction	Calculated mininum audit days	Minimum audit day requirement (rounded up to nearest 1/2 day)		
		1 (Main & EMS)	622	11.0	15%	15%	(11.0 days * 0.70) = 7.7	8.0		
		2	845 898	12.0 12.0	15% 15%	15% 15%	(12.0 days * 0.70) = 8.4 (12.0 days * 0.70) = 8.4	8.5 8.5		
17	Annex 1 Example 7	Calculation for Surveil Site 1 (Main & EMS)	Number of employees at site	Minimum audit day requirement, Rules Table 5.2 5.5	Non-design responsible reduction	Corporate certification structure reduction	Calculated mininum audit days (5.5 days * 0.70) = 3.85	Minimum audit day requirement (rounded up to nearest 1/2 day) 4.0		
		2	845	6.0	15%	15%	(6.0 days * 0.70) = 4.2	4.5		
		Calculation for Recerti	Number of employees at site 622 845 898 Total = 2,365 ges over the 3-ye	y to determine the distr		structure reduction 15% 15% 15% umber of employees,	(6.0 days * 0.70) = 4.2 Calculated mininum audit days (7.0 days * 0.70) = 4.9 (7.5 days * 0.70) = 5.25 (8.0 days * 0.70) = 5.6 certification scope, etc.	Minimum audit day requirement (rounded up to nearest 1/2 day) 5.0 5.5 6.0		
		Rationale for change: Corrected to remove the main site + EMS from Site 1 to align with the details provide								

