The automotive industry is one of the most challenging industries in the world. Short design and development times, in addition to increasing dependence on suppliers combined with the growing complexity of today’s cars and vehicles, have created significant challenges for the entire industry. Being able to rely on suppliers is key, not only for car manufacturers but for all organizations in the entire supply chain. They all require suppliers that have their processes under control and that understand their customers’ specific requirements and focus on continuous improvement.

The IATF 16949 standard answers these challenges by defining requirements focused on continual improvement, and the understanding of process interaction. It also creates an implementation framework for customer specific requirements, and includes clear requirements for development processes, and techniques to prevent problems in the earliest possible stage of product development.

**What is IATF 16949?**

The standard (previously called ISO/TS 16949) was developed by the world’s leading automotive manufacturers and is intended to answer the need for global consistency, continual improvement, and increased customer satisfaction. It is based on ISO 9001 and national quality standards within the automotive industry, and can easily be integrated with standards already in use. The standard applies to all manufacturers in the automotive supply chain worldwide – for cars, their parts, components or systems. This also includes on-highway trucks, buses and motorcycles, but excludes off-highway vehicles.

Demonstrate that you manage and deliver quality every day. Certification to the IATF 16949 quality management system helps position your company as a reliable partner to the Automotive industry.
**Why is certification good for my business?**

Certification to the IATF 16949 quality management system demonstrates both commitment to product quality and compliance to customer specific requirements.

The standard provides for a continual process to help find and report areas of improvement of your management system and relevant processes in your business.

A supplier with an IATF 16949 certificate issued by DNV GL is automatically entered into a worldwide database of suppliers. The database is used exclusively by the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to stay updated on the certification status, and performance of their suppliers. Certification is often a contract pre-requisite.

**Benefits for an IATF 16949 certified company include:**

- Improved processes and product quality.
- Reduced need for multiple second and third party audits.
- Increased confidence when bidding for (global) sourcing contracts.
- Guaranteed credibility when bidding for global sourcing contracts or expanding business locally.
- Reduction of production variations and improved manufacturing efficiency, impacting the bottom line results positively.

**How can I prepare for certification?**

For certification, you need to implement an effective quality management system complying with the requirements of the IATF 16949 standard. It is important that you and your company are committed and set clear targets for implementation and assessment. This includes:

- Identifying customer requirements.
- Identifying applicable legal requirements.
- Establishing objectives, goals, and improvement programmes.

Before certification starts, your company should perform internal audits to identify potential gaps. One of the most important things to remember is that development, implementation and certification of an automotive quality management system is a continuous journey, with the certification audit representing one element of a continuous improvement process.

**Risk Based Certification™ - tailored to your company's unique needs**

DNV GL’s Risk Based Certification methodology provides more value to your company through focused audits. We start by asking you to identify the most significant risks to your company’s sustainable business performance. In addition to measuring against the selected standard, we tailor the audit to address the identified risks. This is vital in helping you pinpoint key improvement areas.

By providing focused and structured information to top management on the organization’s ability to meet long term objectives, we offer more value than any other certification body.

**Why partner with DNV GL?**

DNV GL is a global quality assurance and risk management company. Driven by our purpose of safeguarding life, property and the environment, we enable our customers to advance the safety and sustainability of their business. With origins stretching back to 1864 and operations in more than 100 countries, our experts are dedicated to helping customers make the world safer, smarter and greener.

As one of the world’s leading certification bodies, we help businesses assure the performance of their organizations, products, people, facilities and supply chains through certification, verification, assessment and training services. Partnering with our customers, we build sustainable business performance and create stakeholder trust across all types of industries.

*Risk Based Certification is a registered EU trademark of DNV GL AS.*