

IATF Transfer Requirements for clients certified to IATF 16949 by SABS

FOREWORD

The contract between the former IATF-recognized certification body SABS (South African Bureau of Standards) and the IATF (International Automotive Task Force) was terminated effective 13th December 2018.

The IATF is aware of the inconveniences this contract termination will have on certified clients. Therefore a set of requirements and special waivers were approved to minimize the impact and assist clients that intend to maintain an IATF-recognized IATF 16949 certification by an IATF-recognized certification body.

As of the contract termination date, clients will no longer be able to receive IATF-recognized IATF 16949 audits from SABS. Clients with existing valid IATF 16949 certificates will have their certificates cancelled (or expire) according to the date(s) listed in section 1 below.

It is strongly recommended to immediately start transfer activities to another IATF-recognized certification body. The initial step to transfer requires the clients to establish a legally enforceable contract with another IATF-recognized certification body. Clients shall ensure a legally enforceable contract is established early enough to be able to transfer to another IATF-recognized certification body. The list of IATF-recognized certification bodies can be found under:

www.iatfglobaloversight.org/certification-bodies/under-contract/

1. Certificate Validity of SABS issued certificates against IATF 16949

All **IATF 16949 certificates** issued by SABS that are valid as of 13th December 2018, will remain **valid until 31 December 2019** regardless of the current certificate expiration date and regardless of the last performed audit. A new certificate replacing the shown expiration date will not be issued however this official IATF communication together with the IATF Database entry will be the evidence needed in order to allow a transfer to another IATF-recognized certification body.

On **1st January 2020** all **IATF 16949 certificates** issued by SABS will be cancelled by the IATF automatically.

2. Clients who had an IATF 16949 transition audit but have not been issued an IATF 16949 certificate by SABS

If an IATF 16949 transition audit was conducted by SABS however no new IATF 16949 certificate was issued as of 13th December 2018, SABS will be permitted to complete the nonconformity management with the client to be able to issue an IATF 16949 certificate, eventually even after 13 December 2018.

3. Transfer Requirements for clients holding a valid IATF 16949 certificate issued by SABS

a) Every SABS client who has a valid IATF 16949 certificate (see section 1 above) is permitted to conduct a transfer audit to another IATF-recognized certification body until 31 October 2019.

If a transfer audit is not conducted before 31 October 2019, the client is required to start over again with an initial certification audit, including a stage 1 readiness review.

b) For the transfer audit, the new IATF-recognized certification body is required to apply the normal transfer requirements of the IATF Rules 5th Edition, section 7.0 with the following exceptions:

- the requirements of 7.1.1 c) and d) do not apply in this special situation
- the requirements under 7.1.1 f) and g) do not apply in this special situation. However, if the IATF 16949 certificate is currently in a suspension status and the suspension is initiated due to the IATF Rules 5th Edition, clauses 8.1 a), b) or c) the new certification body shall conduct at least one onsite special audit to verify the effective implementation of the identified corrective actions.

c) The audit days for the transfer audit shall be equivalent of a recertification audit (see table 5.2 of the IATF Rules 5th Edition)

d) The new certification body shall enter the audit as a transfer audit in the IATF Database and issue an IATF 16949 certificate according to the requirements in the IATF Rules 5th Edition, section 5.13.

4. Clients who had an IATF 16949 initial audit but have not been issued an IATF 16949 certificate by SABS

If an IATF 16949 initial audit was conducted by SABS however no new IATF 16949 certificate was issued as of 13th December 2018, SABS will be permitted to complete the nonconformity management with the client to be able to issue an IATF 16949 certificate, eventually even after 13 December 2018.

If you have questions regarding these requirements and special waivers, please contact the new IATF-recognized certification body or VDA QMC. Please use this official communication in order to provide evidence to your customer(s) or other stakeholders concerning the validity of your certificate and the special transfer requirements.