
 SUPPLIER QUALITY REQUIREMENTS TASK FORCE

To: Automotive Suppliers
August 2002
Subject: Recognition of ISO/TS 16949:2002, Expiration of QS-9000, 3rd Edition (QS-9000:1998)

The agreement between QS-9000 and ISO, Geneva, to include ISO 9000:1994 text in the QS-9000, 3rd Edition, standards document expires on 14 December, 2006. Beyond that date, ISO/TS 16949:2002 will replace QS-9000.

As a result of the harmonization efforts of the supplier quality system requirements of vehicle manufacturers worldwide, the Chrysler Group, Ford Motor Company and General Motors Corporation, as part of the International Automotive Task Force (IATF), have each decided to adopt the new ISO/TS 16949:2002 standard. As a minimum, this standard provides a supplier to vehicle manufacturers a single quality management system recognized by all IATF-participating companies. The IATF participating companies recognize the IATF 3rd party certification process for the standard as demonstration of compliance with ISO/TS 16949 and any customer specific requirements

ISO/TS 16949:2002 was released in March, 2002 and is based on ISO 9001:2000. Fundamentally, ISO/TS 16949:2002 is a globally recognized automotive sector requirements document. This standard requires increased supplier management commitment to quality system improvement and performance measurements based on data and full process reviews.

The benefits of ISO/TS 16949:2002 include:

- Improved and consistent registrar oversight and auditor training
- Process based audits focusing on customer satisfaction
- Global acceptance of the standard in place of 3 European standards and QS-9000
- Incorporation of improvements learned through the implementation of QS-9000

More information on ISO/TS 16949:2002 is available through the IATF Oversight organization in North America at www.iaob.org or AIAG (Automotive Industry Action Group) at www.aiag.org.

You will need to determine whether your current registrar is IATF recognized to audit your facility to ISO/TS 16949:2002. The ISO/TS 16949 Oversight website, www.iaob.org, contains information on qualified registrars. Alternatively, you may contact Harold Hodder, IAOb Executive Director, 1 (248) 799-3939. Ongoing certification costs will be in line with that of QS-9000, and reciprocal recognition among subscribing OEMs can reduce costs overall.

To suppliers currently registered to QS-9000: it is strongly urged that your registered site(s) upgrade to ISO/TS 16949:2002 at the expiration of their current QS-9000 certification, and no later than 14 December, 2006, or earlier based on individual OEM customer requirements. Note that all QS-9000 certifications or renewals will expire 14 December 2006. Additional information regarding the QS-9000 certification process after 15 December, 2003 is available at www.aiag.org or www.qs-9000.org.

Suppliers certified to ISO/TS 16949:1999 will need to upgrade prior to the expiration of their current certificate or December 15, 2004 which ever occurs sooner. (NOTE: For suppliers certified to ISO/TS 16949:1999, December 15, 2004 provides a one year grace period which will be recognized by the Chrysler Group, Ford Motor Company and General Motors Corp. since the ISO 9000:1994 standard, on which ISO/TS 16949:1999 is based, technically expires on December 15, 2003.)

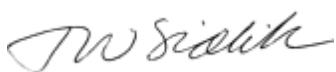
Chrysler Group, Ford Motor and General Motors company specific ISO/TS 16949 certification requirements are available through www.iaob.org.

If you have any additional questions:

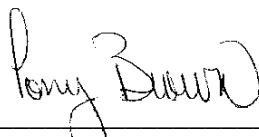
Chrysler Group suppliers, please contact Hank Gryn at 1 (248)-944-0737 or hg3@daimlerchrysler.com.

Ford Motor suppliers, please contact Russ Hopkins at 1 (313) 390 2796 or rhopkins@ford.com.

General Motors suppliers, please contact Joe Bransky at 1 (419) 625-9575 or 103114.2516@compuserve.com.



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