

Bringing Functional Safety to the SBOM

SPDX Safety Profile Release Candidate 3.1-rc1

**FOSDEM 2026,
SBOM and Supply Chains Devroom
01.02.2026
Nicole Pappler, AlektoMetis**



Whoami – Nicole Pappler

Founder and Safety Consultant at AlektoMetis



Professional History:

Been working in production maintenance, automotive, ECU software development

All my projects had some safety criticality

Started to focus on Functional Safety about 15 years ago

Currently:

Tech consulting as part of AlektoMetis

Supporting my customers regarding Functional Safety, Security & compliant use of open source

Involved in some open source projects:

Zephyr (Functional Safety Manager)

ELISA (Medical & Systems Group)

FuSa for SPDX Profile Group

OpenChain (3rd party certification with TÜV SÜD)

What else?

Contact handle at GitHub, Discord, etc: @nicpappler

About SPDX

System Data Package Exchange

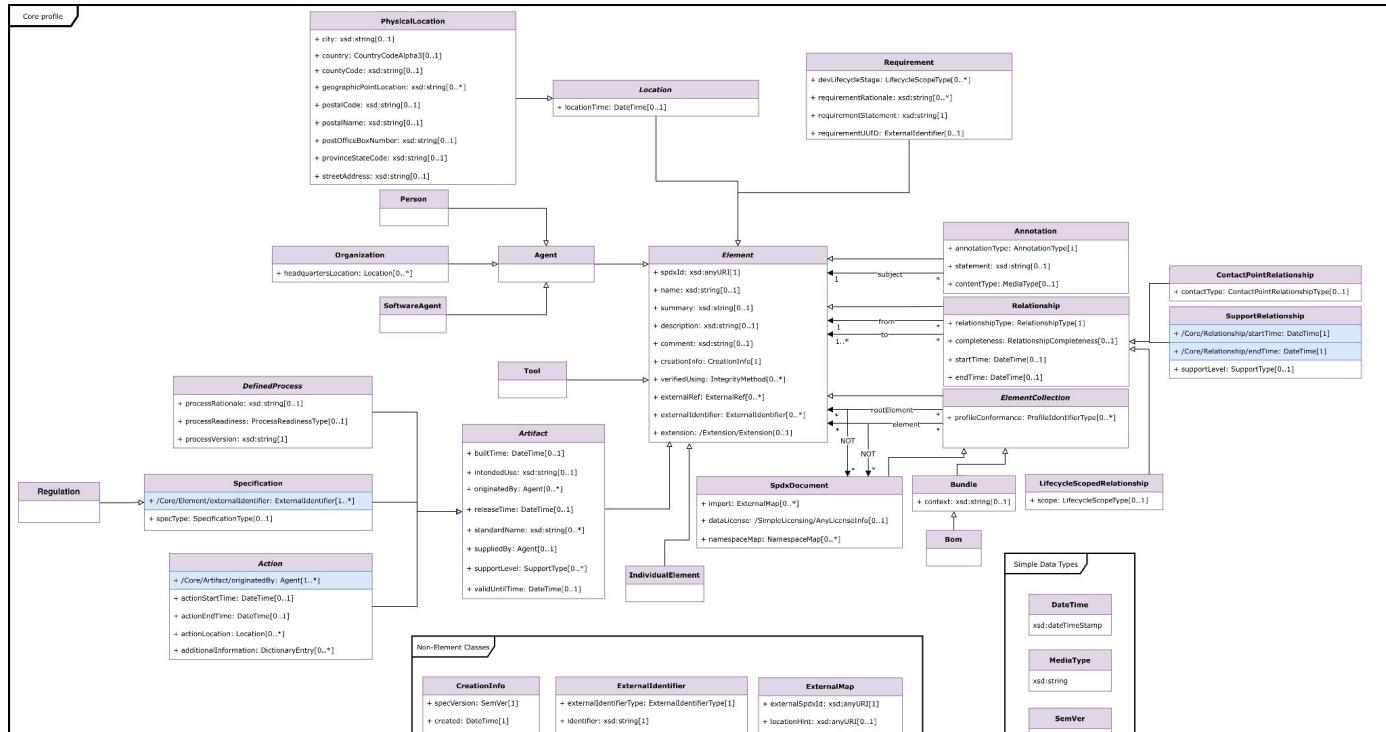


- Open standard, providing a format to describe software in both machine and human readable way
- Communicate SBOM information, including provenance, license, security, and other related information
- SPDX 2.3 -> ISO/IEC 5962:2021,
- SPDX 3.0 currently on the way to become an ISO/IEC standard
- SPDX Project consists of the
 - SPDX Specification,
 - SPDX License List, and
 - SPDX tools and libraries

SPDX 3.1-rc core model



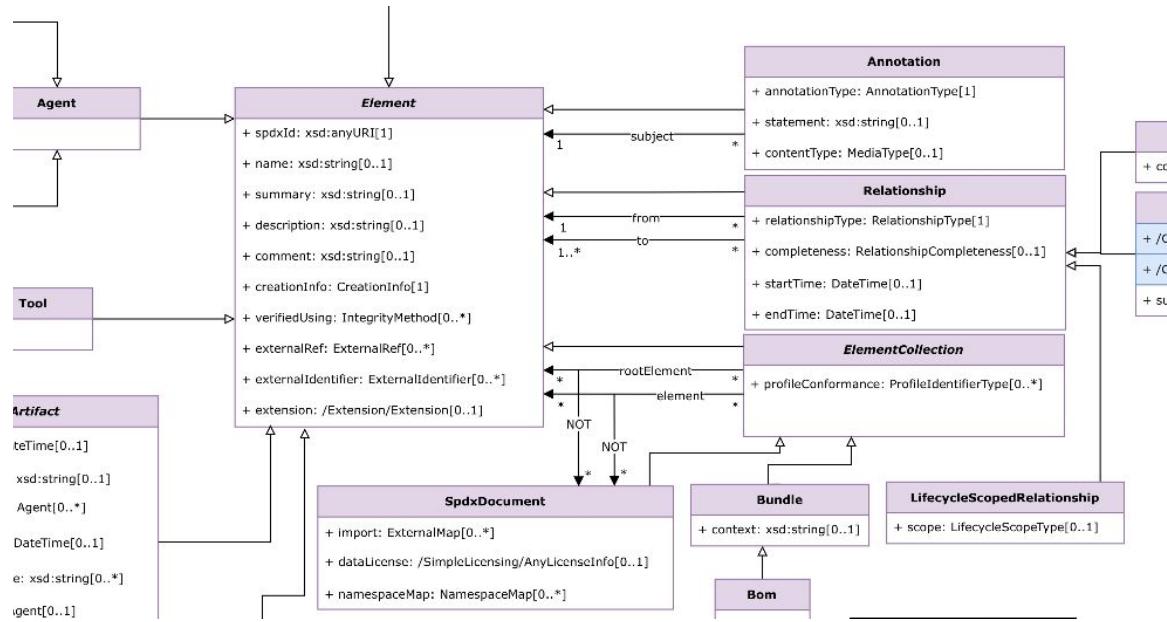
Core



SPDX 3.1-rc1 Element class



Core



Element:

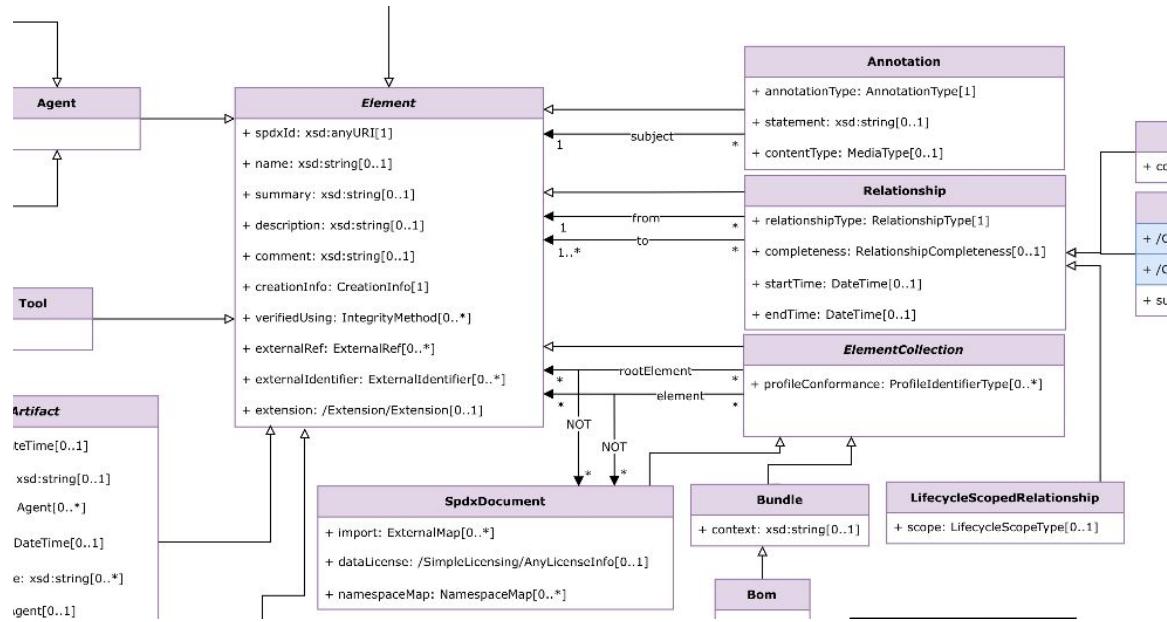
Basic class, includes e.g. information on

- Creation (who, when)
- ID, name
- description

SPDX 3.1-rc1 Relationship class



Core



Relationship:

Class describing dependencies, like

- hasEvidence
- hasSpecification
- verifiedBy
- traceToDetail

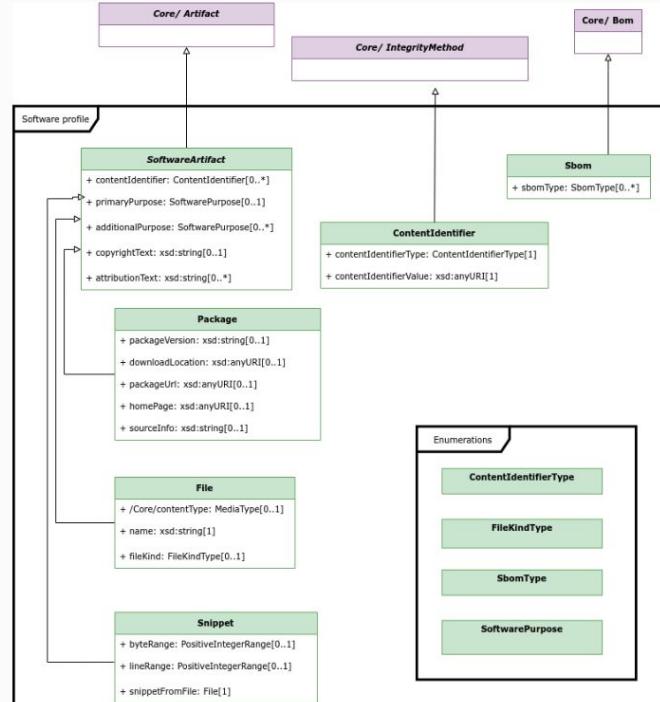
A relationship can be complete or incomplete

SPDX 3.0 Profiles

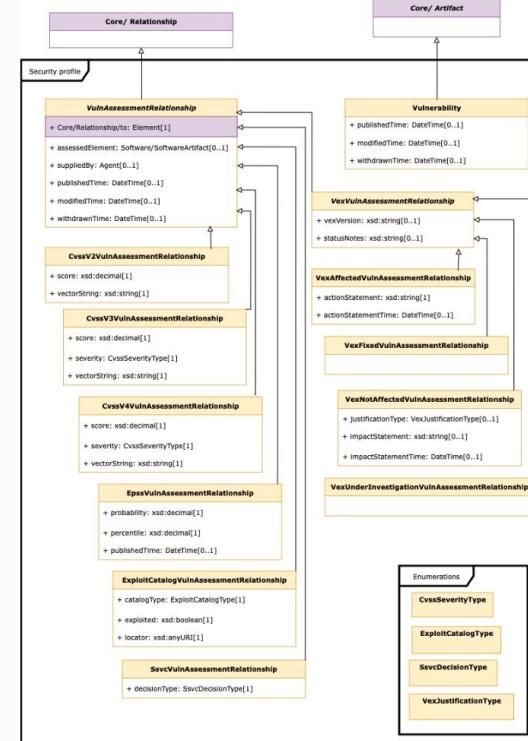
Examples



Software Profile



Security Profile



SPDX FuSa



Goal:

To create a SPDX profile, based on SPDX 3.0 that enabled the delivery of the documents created in a safety lifecycle to enable the automation of building, exchanging and processing safety evidences

Use Cases:

- Generation of the Safety Case documentation
- Safety SBOM as exchange format in the supply chain
- Integrating the build of the safety documentation into the pipeline

Use Cases



Use Case 1: Exchange FuSa related information in the supply chain

- Complete project information as Safety Case
- Planning of Functional Safety Management and (Safety) Concept
- Obligations for integration and operation

Use Case 2: Traceability within the project

- Process application and guidelines to implemented work products
- Specifications, requirements, architecture, safety analysis, code, tests and test reports

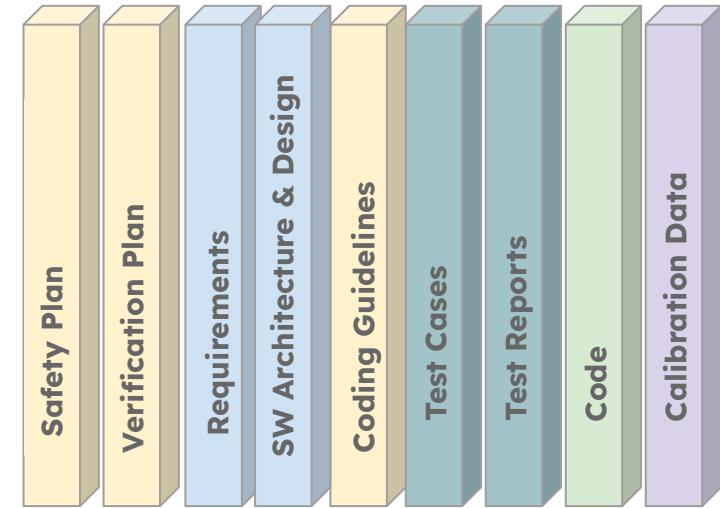
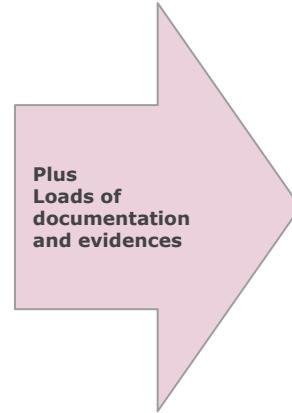
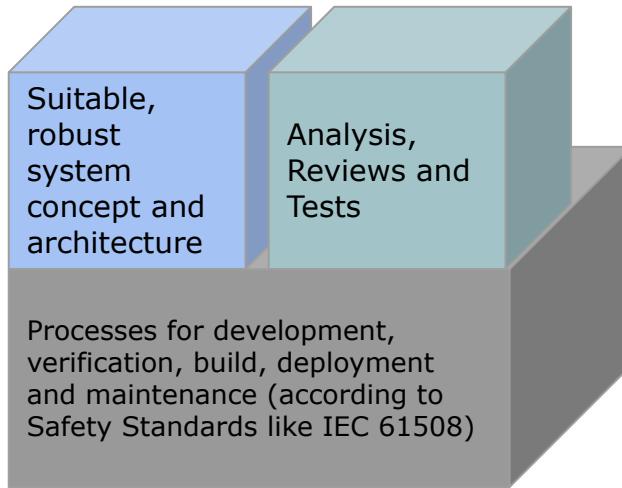
Use Case 3: Support of automated assessments

- Standardized assessment interfaces

Use Case - Exchange Information



Safety Case documentation

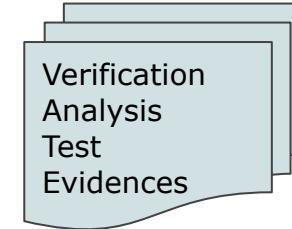
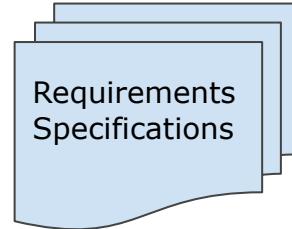
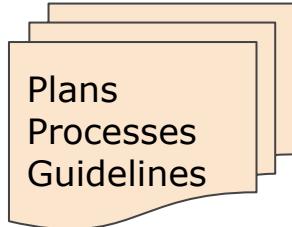


FuSa documentation structure

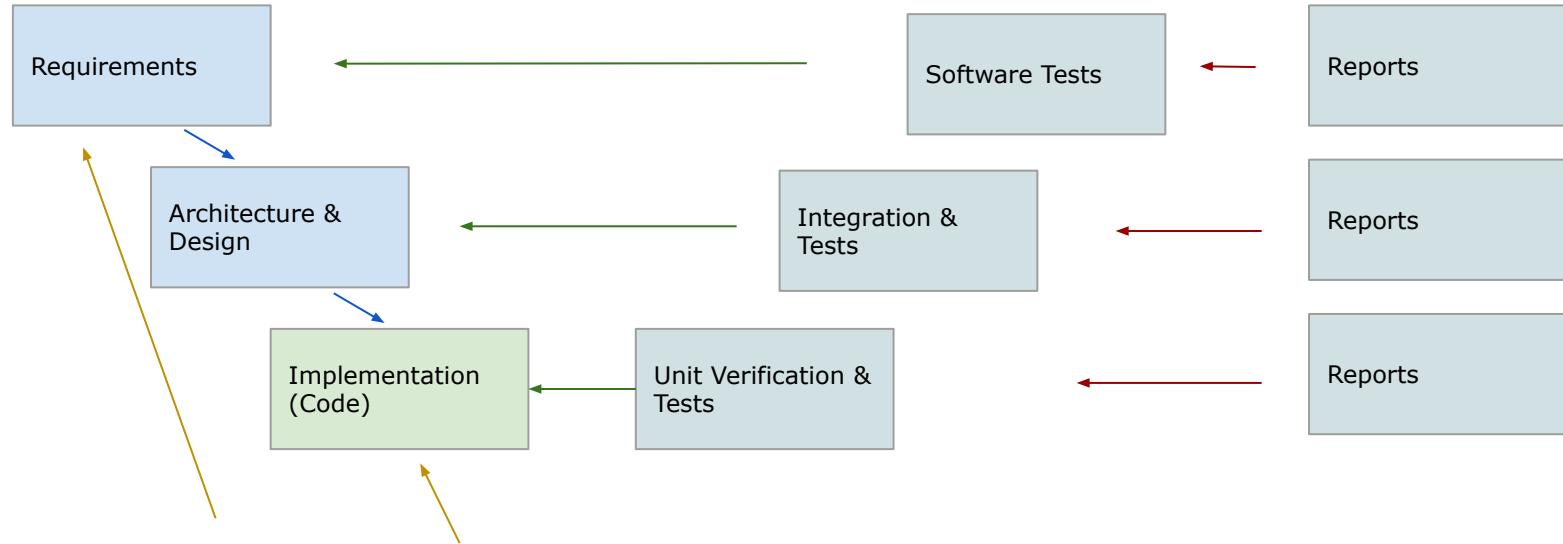


All FuSa related documentation is part of the Safety Case!

Think of all these documents as part of the release - each document is part of the Bill of Material, as is each screw, each microcontroller and each piece of software!



Dependencies in a FuSa Project

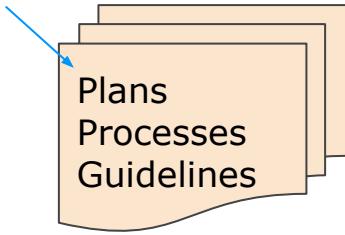


Functional Safety Management Plan	Requirements Management Plan	Configuration Management Plan	Documentation Management Plan	Component Qualification / Supply Chain	Validation & Assessment	Tooling Eval & Qualification (Dev, Verification, Build, Deploy...)
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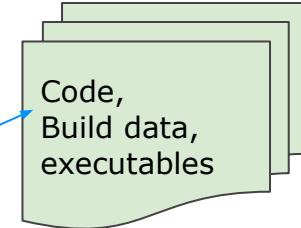
Data Structure of current FuSa projects...



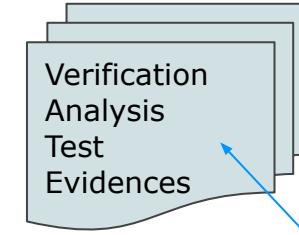
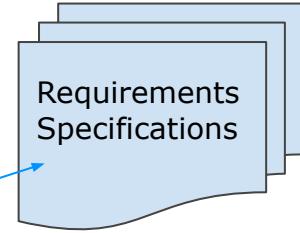
.pdf, .docx, QMS
System,
Wikis



One or more
repos, git or svn
based



Zoo of lifecycle
management systems,
.pdf, .docx

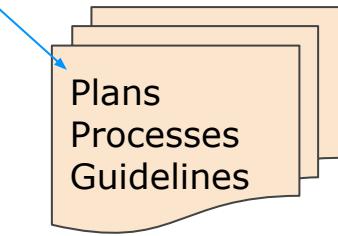


Zoo of lifecycle
management systems and
test tools,
.pdf, .docx, .xls, html, code
...

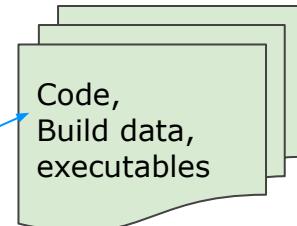
Data Structure of current FuSa projects...



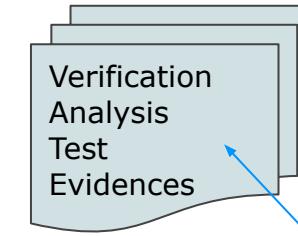
.pdf, .docx, QMS
System,
Wikis



One or more
repos, git or svn
based

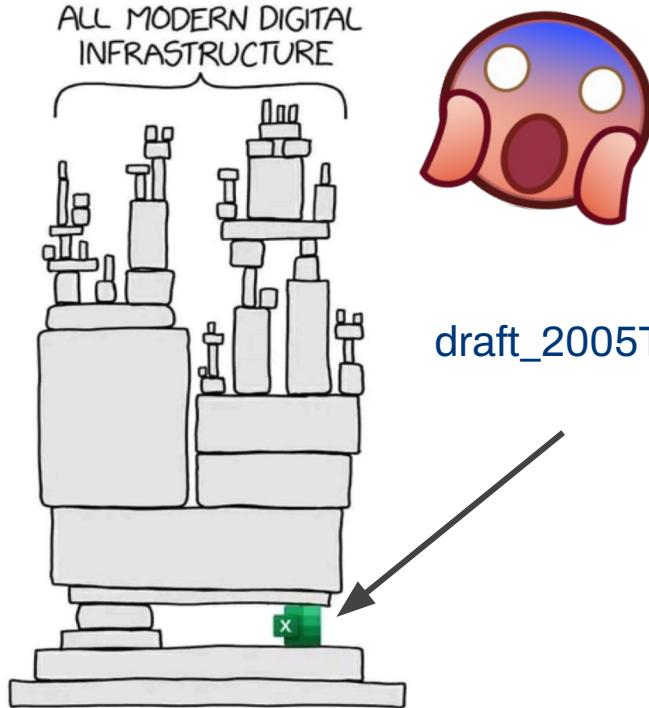


Traceability breaks
between tools, between
configurations, etc,
impossible to keep up
during updates and
product variants



Zoo of lifecycle
management systems,
.pdf, .docx

No 1 Safety Information Exchange Format

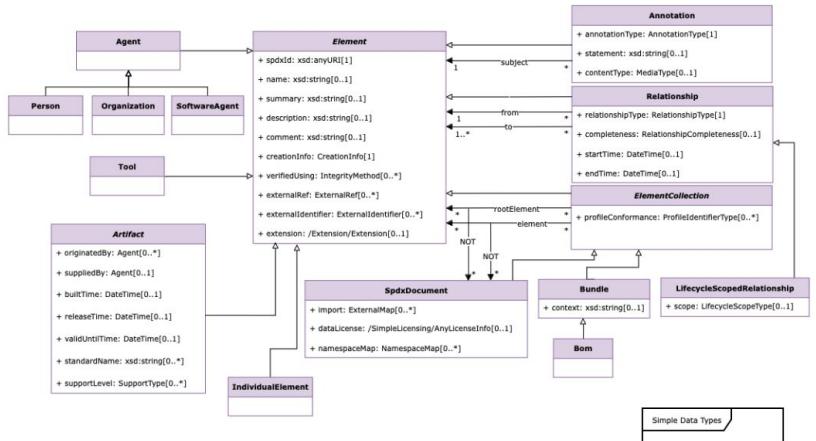


[draft_2005TemplateSafetyCase_thisproject_final_forTraceingv06.xls](#)

Why not use this instead?



Core profile



Core Enumerations

	RelationshipType	ExternalRefType	AnnotationType
Meta	+ annotatedBy [Element -> Element] + describes [Element -> Element] + modifiedBy [Element -> Element] +/- other [Element -> Element] {comment}	+/- altDownloadLocation [Element -> Element] +/- altWebPage [Element -> Element] +/- binaryArtifact [Element -> Element] +/- bower [Element -> Element] +/- buildMeta [Element -> Element] +/- buildSystem [Element -> Element] +/- certificationReport [Element -> Element] +/- chat [Element -> Element] +/- componentAnalysisReport [Element -> Element] +/- documentation [Element -> Element] +/- dynamicAnalysisReport [Element -> Element] +/- eolNotice [Element -> Element] +/- exportControlAssessment [Element -> Element] +/- file [Element -> Element] +/- issueTracker [Element -> Element] +/- license [Element -> Element] +/- mailingList [Element -> Element] +/- marketplace [Element -> Element] +/- metric [Element -> Element] +/- npm [Element -> Element] +/- ogp [Element -> Element] +/- other [Element -> Element] +/- privateAssessment [Element -> Element] +/- productMetadata [Element -> Element] +/- purchasedOrder [Element -> Element] +/- qualityAssessmentReport [Element -> Element] +/- releaseHistory [Element -> Element] +/- releaseNotes [Element -> Element] +/- riskAssessment [Element -> Element] +/- securityAssessmentReport [Element -> Element] +/- securedForTradeAttestation [Element -> Element] +/- securityAdvisory [Element -> Element] +/- securityModel [Element -> Element] +/- securityOther [Element -> Element] +/- securityPenTestReport [Element -> Element] +/- securityPlan [Element -> Element] +/- securityThreatModel [Element -> Element] +/- socialMedia [Element -> Element] +/- sourceCode [Element -> Element] +/- staticAnalysisReport [Element -> Element] +/- support [Element -> Element] +/- vcs [Element -> Element] +/- vulnerabilityDisclosureReport [Element -> Element] +/- vulnerabilityExploitabilityAssessment [Element -> Element]	+/- editor [Element -> Element] +/- review [Element -> Element]
Structure	[Element -> Element]		
Behavioral			
Annotations			
Predicates			
Provenance			
Serialization			
Business			
IndividualElement			
Simple Data Types			

Generate SBOMS when the data is known



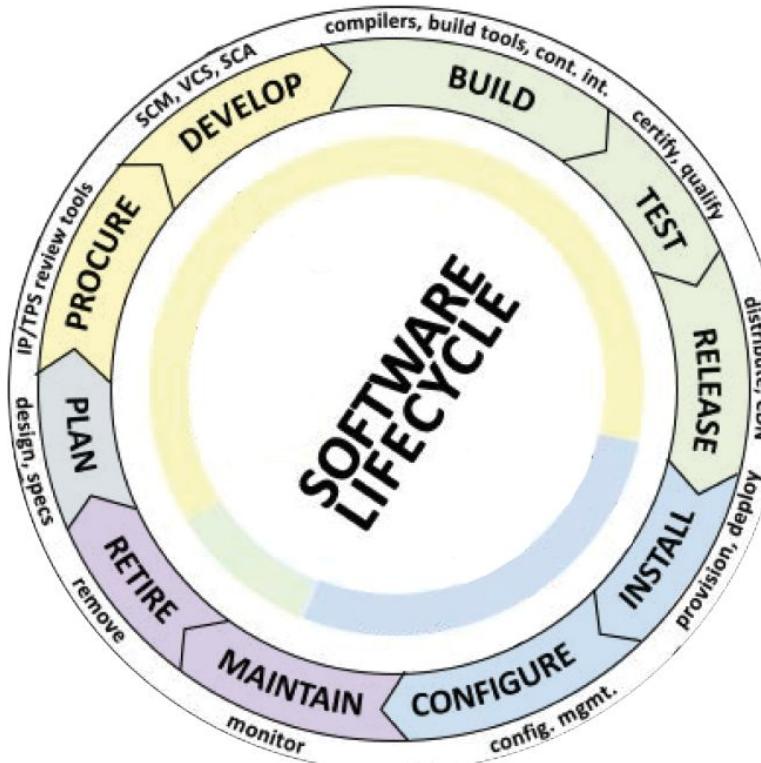
Source SBOM



Design SBOM



Runtime SBOM



Build SBOM



Deployed SBOM

Different project phases - SPDX Safety SBOMs



Concept phase & Implementation

Design SBOM

Source SBOM

Build & Test

Build SBOM

Runtime SBOM

Final integrated system

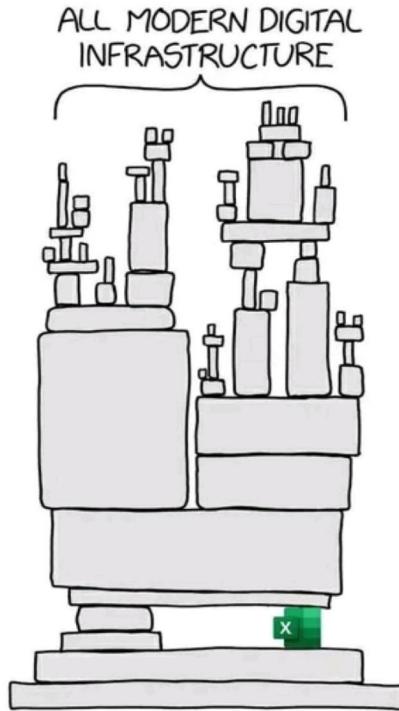
Deployed SBOM



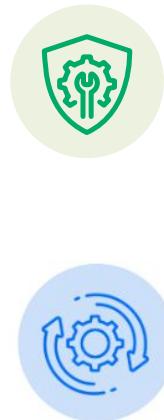
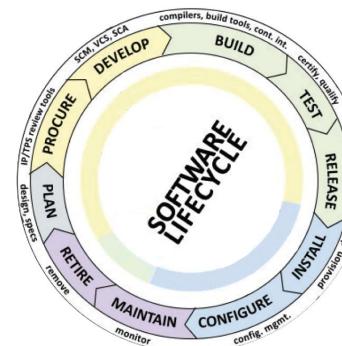
Safety Information Exchange Format?



SPDX SBOM



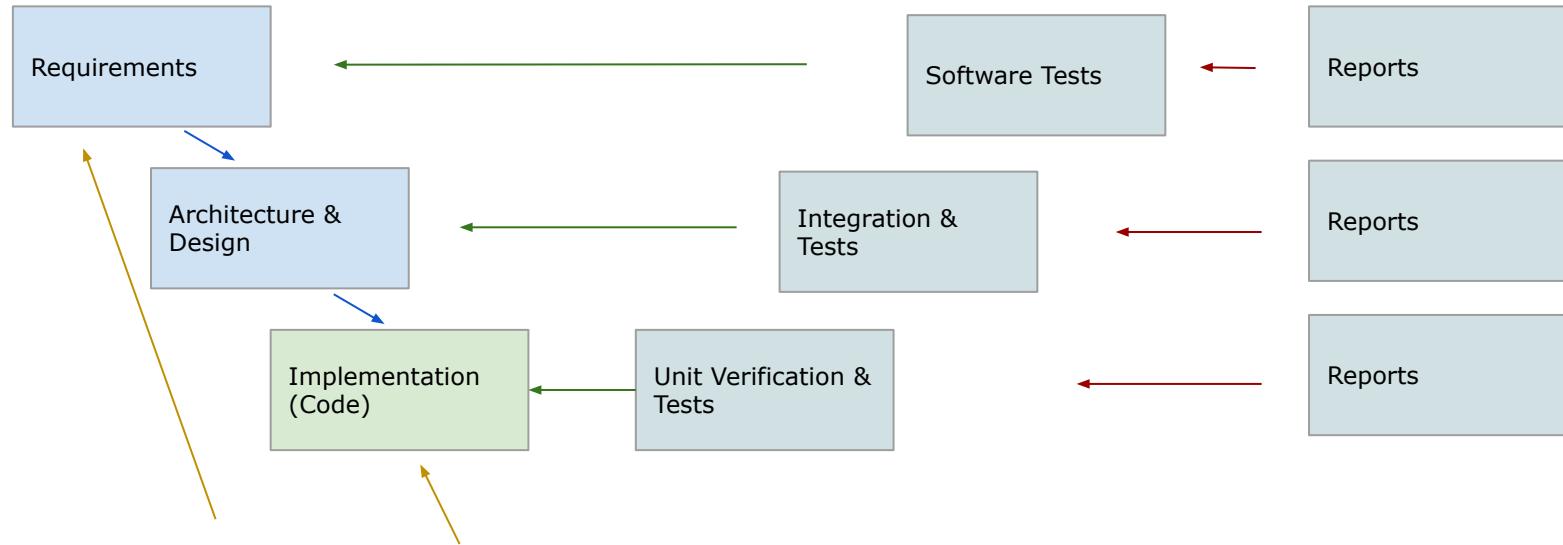
SPDX 3.1



... instead of inconsistent Spreadsheets, manual import/export of half decent ReqIFs... why not use SBOMS?

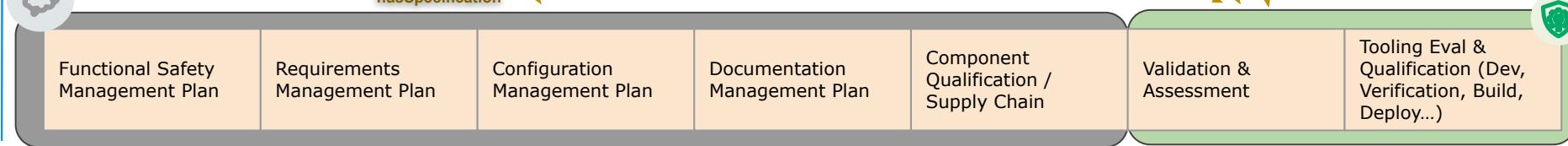
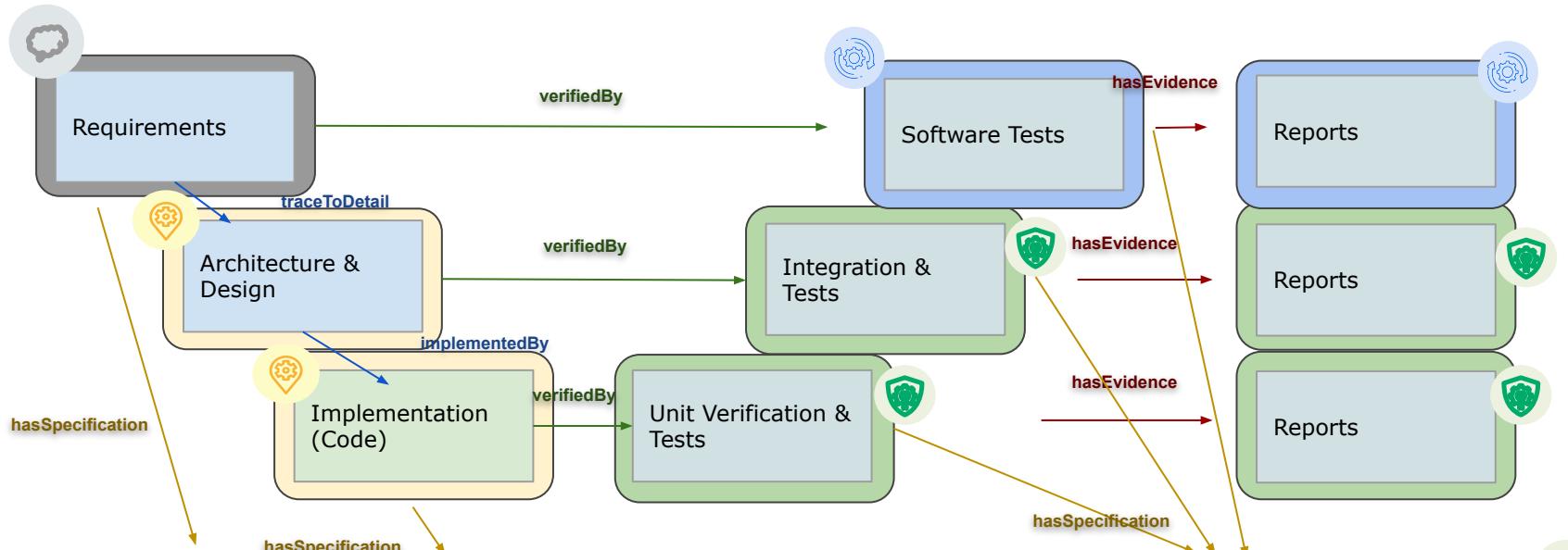
Use Case - Traceability

Dependencies in a FuSa Project



Functional Safety Management Plan	Requirements Management Plan	Configuration Management Plan	Documentation Management Plan	Component Qualification / Supply Chain	Validation & Assessment	Tooling Eval & Qualification (Dev, Verification, Build, Deploy...)
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Dependencies in a FuSa Project*

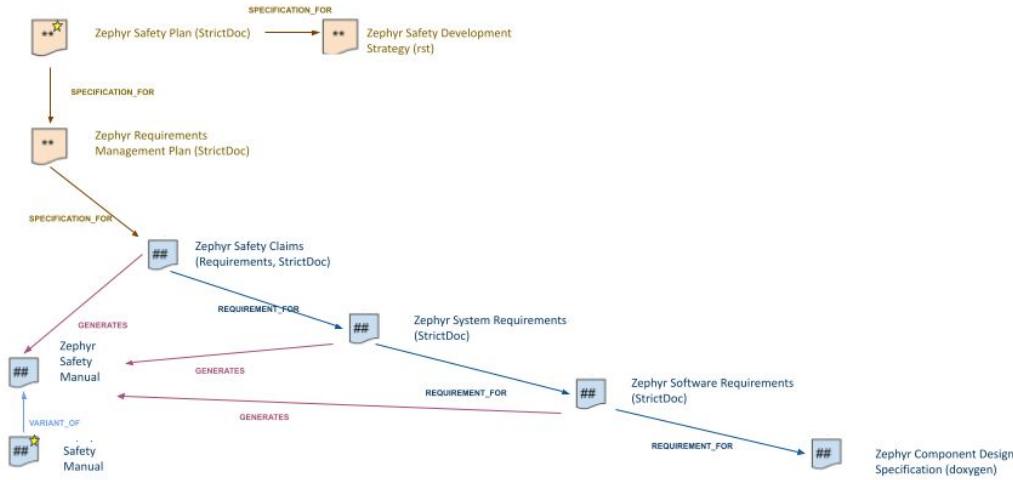


Zephyr Requirements Management

Requirements Management Knowledge Model



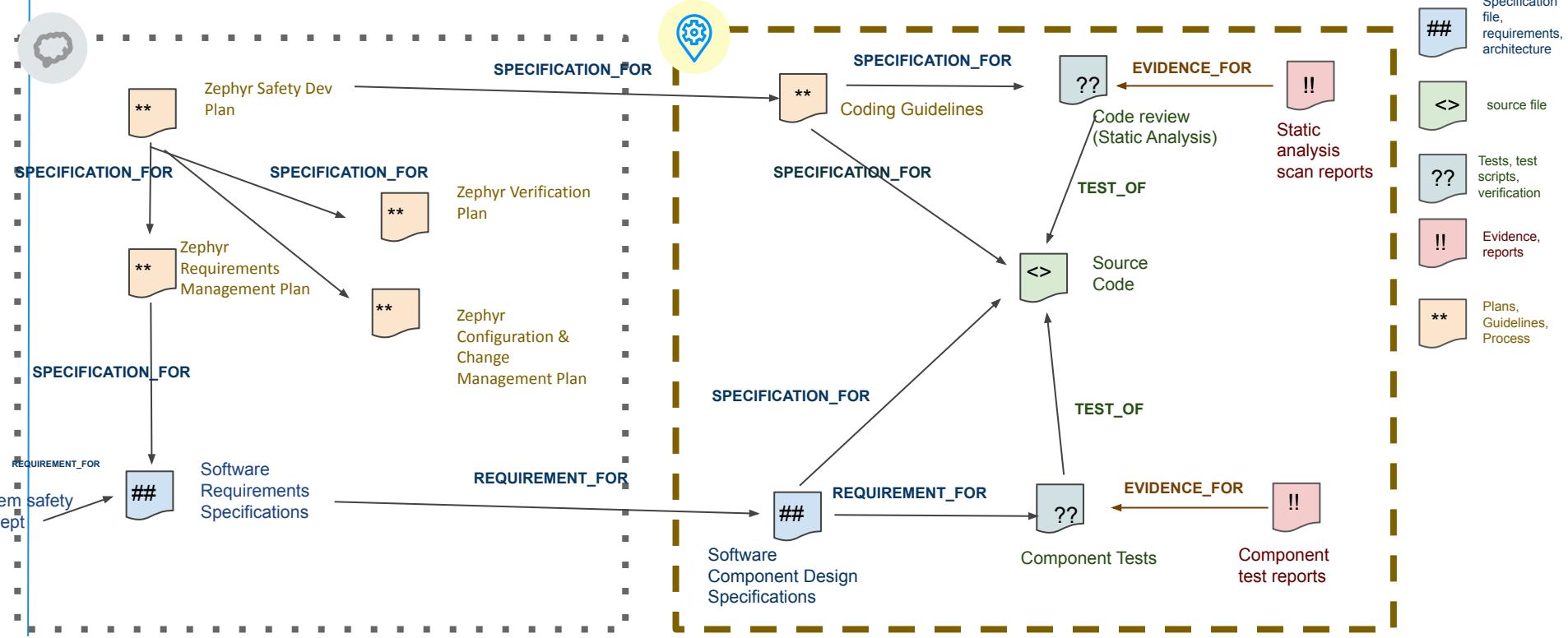
Safety Committee View ★



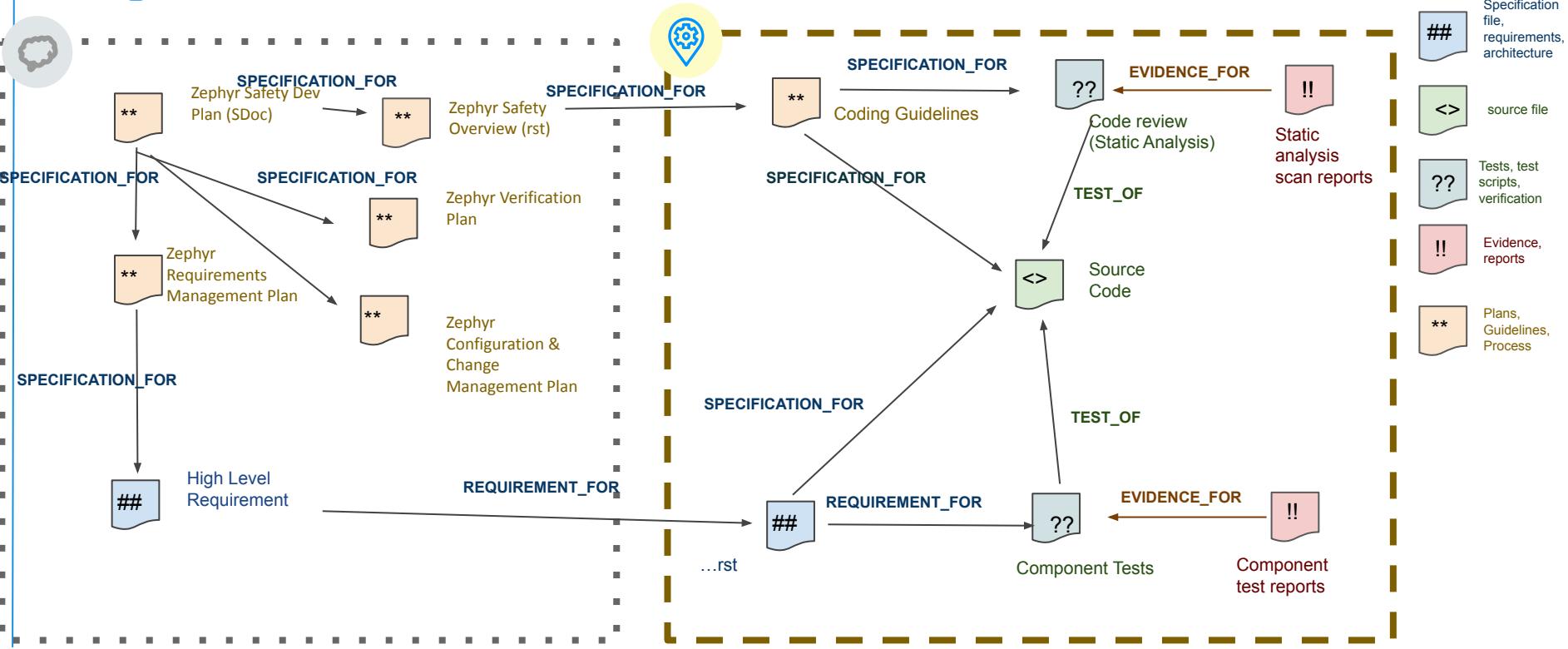
*prototyping with SPDX 2.3 relationships

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Dependencies of Safety Plan, Safety Claim, Req, Design and Code



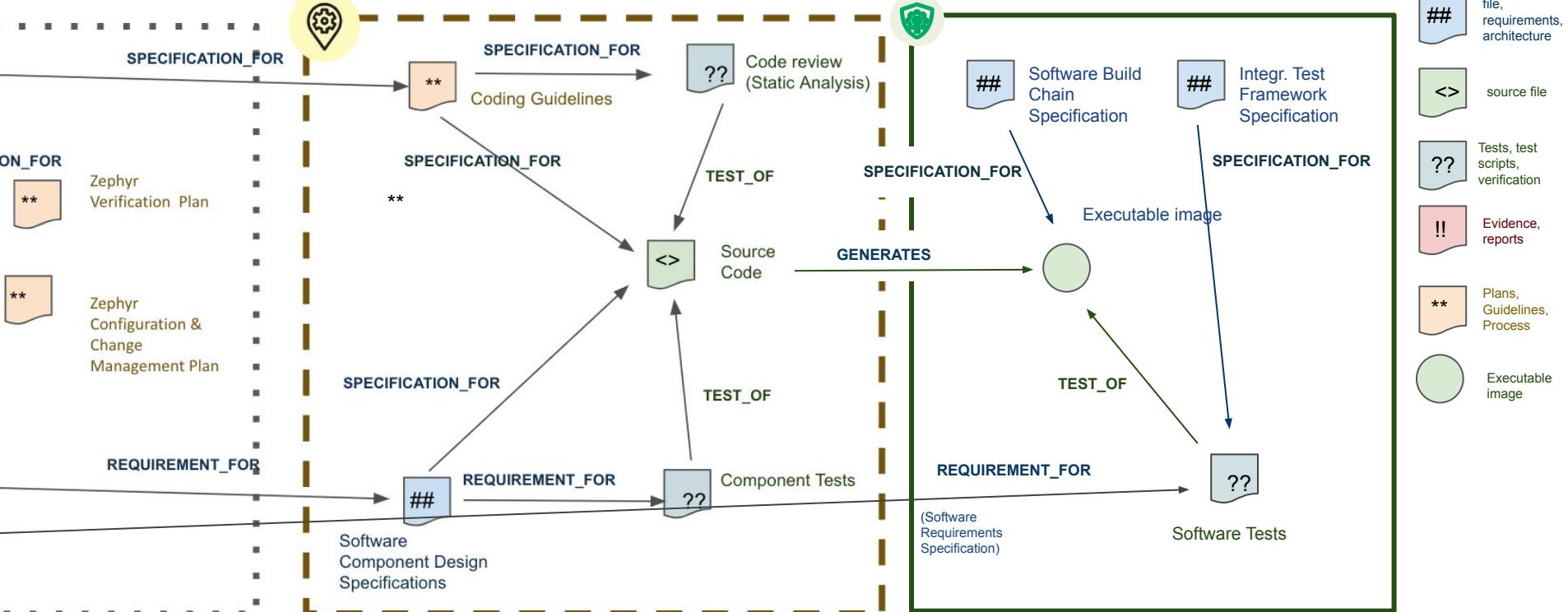
Design SBOM to Source SBOM



*prototyping with SPDX 2.3 relationships

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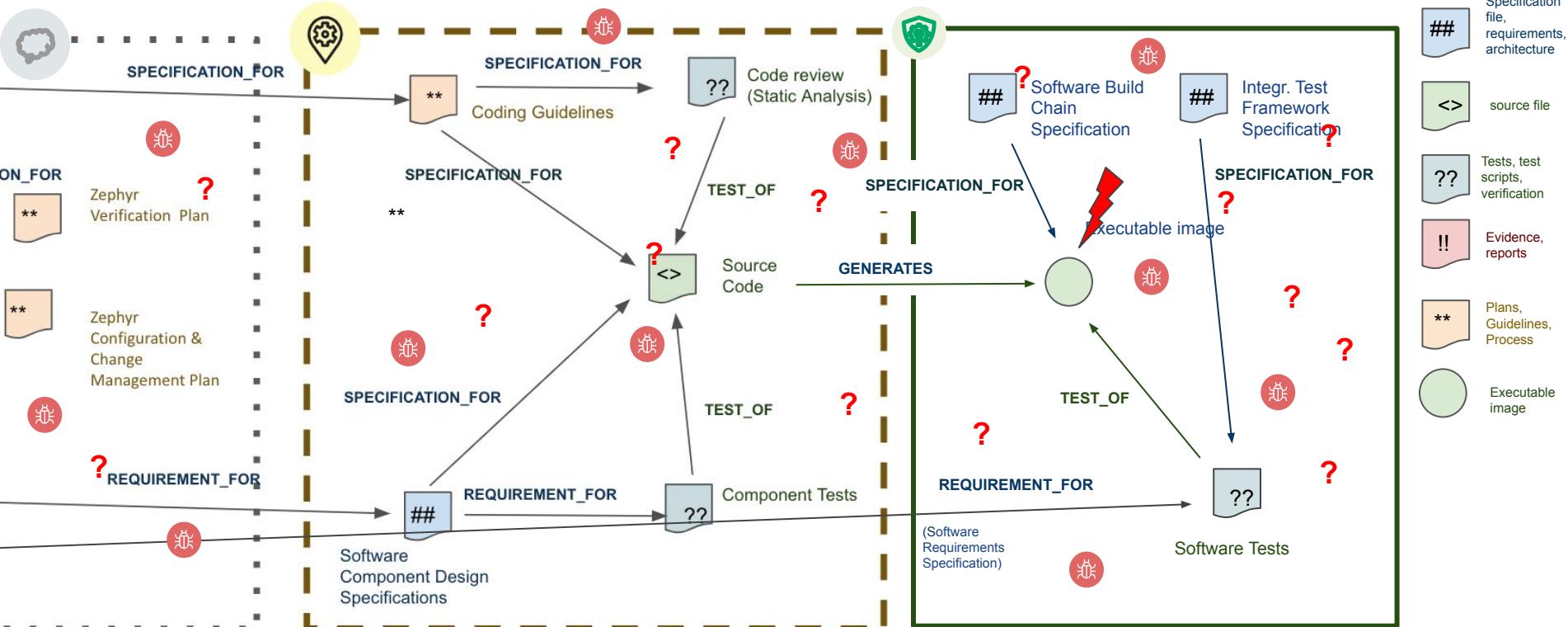
Source SBOM to Build SBOM



*prototyping with SPDX 2.3 relationships

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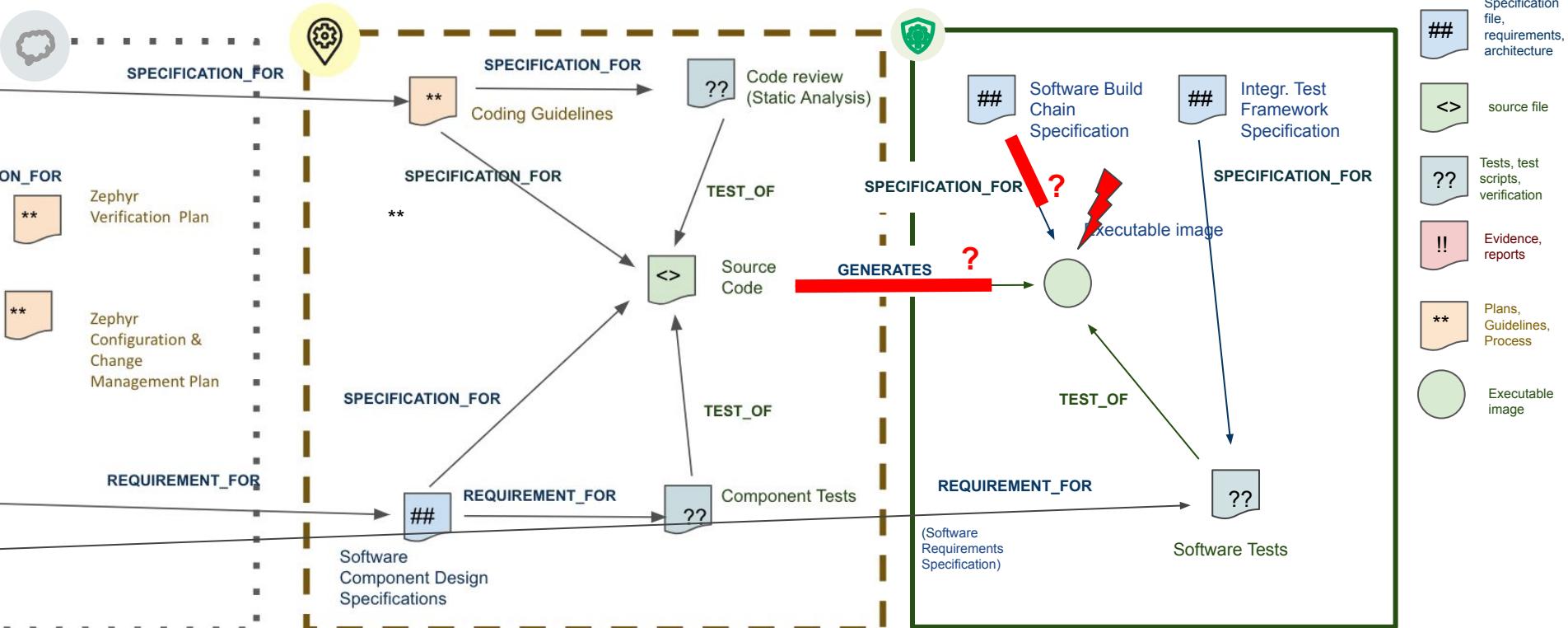
Dependency Identification on Component Level



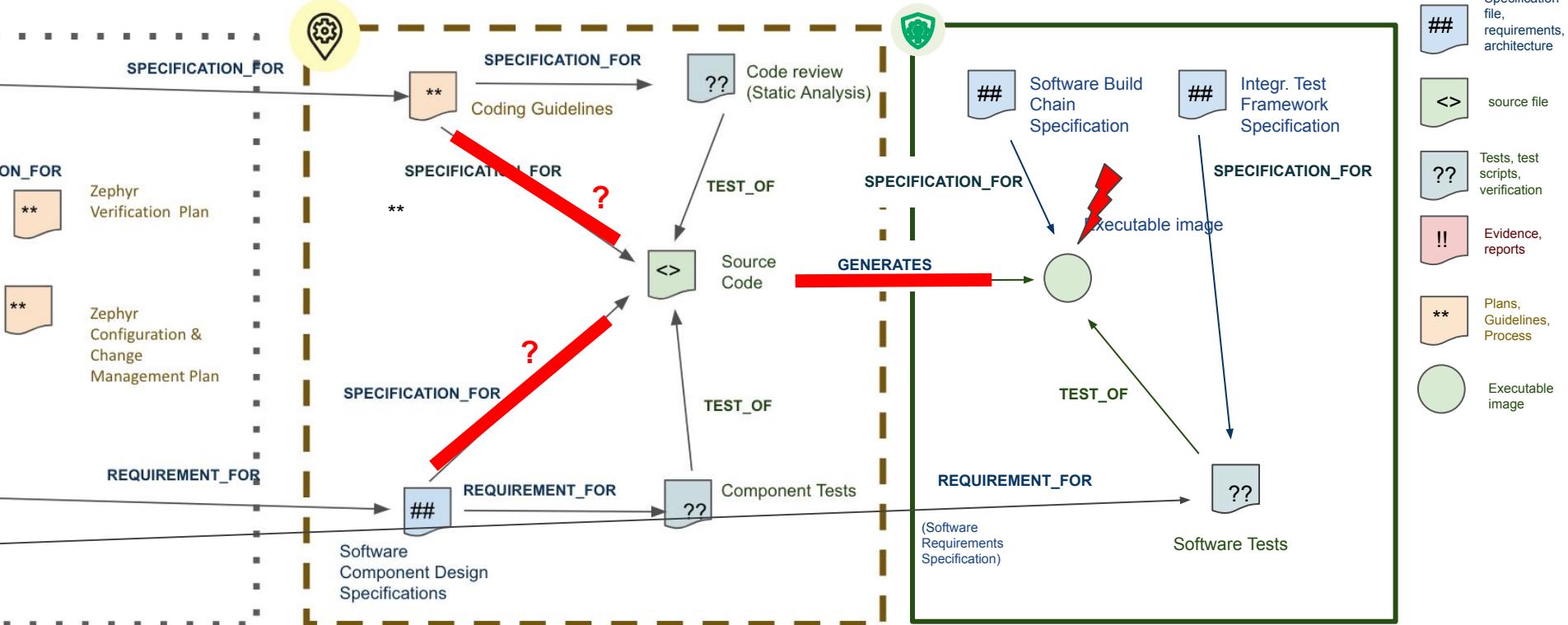
*prototyping with SPDX 2.3 relationships

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Dependency Identification on Component Level

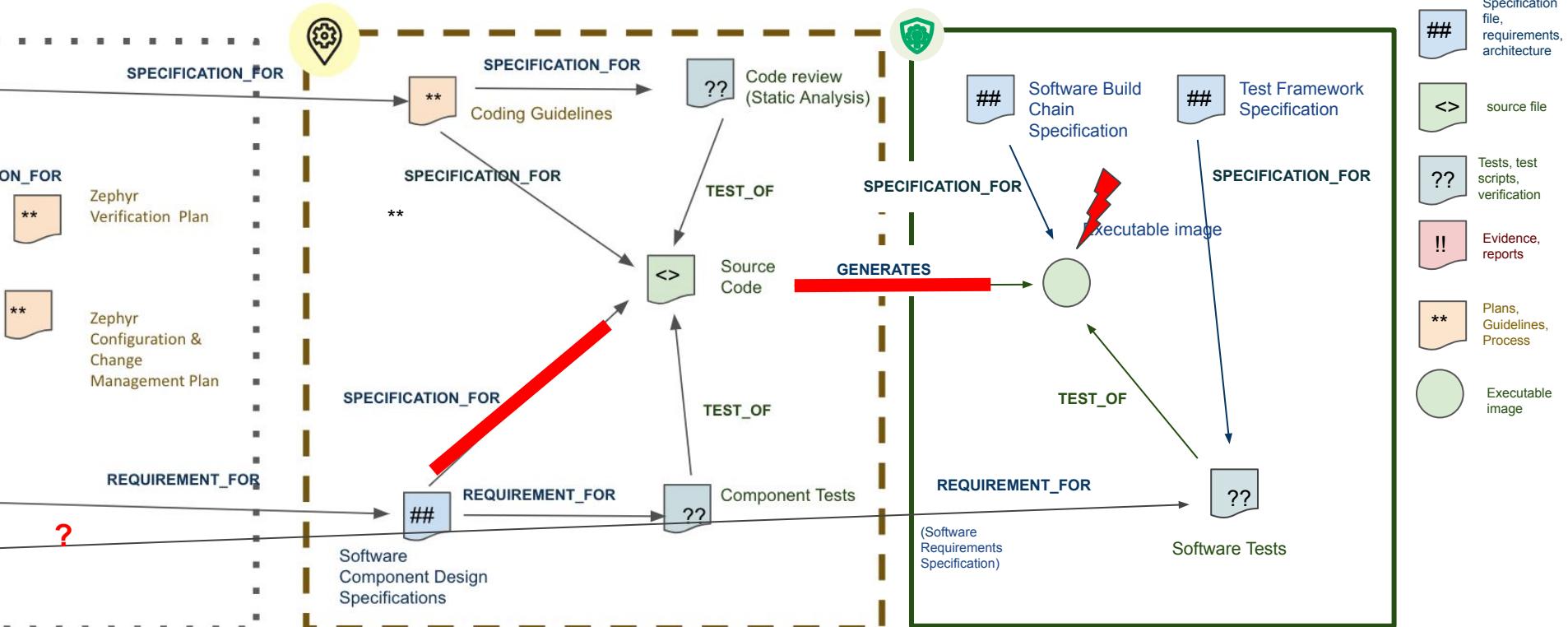


Dependency Identification on Component Level

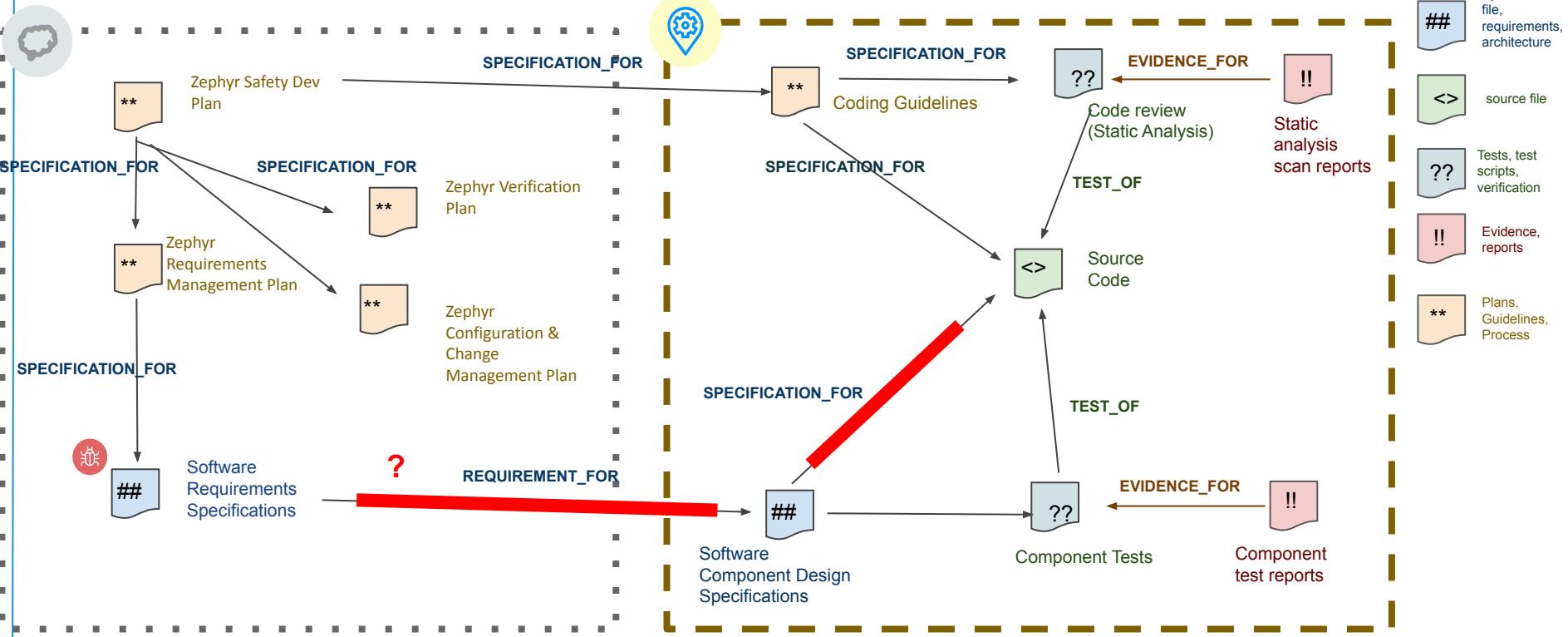


Dependency Identification on Component Level

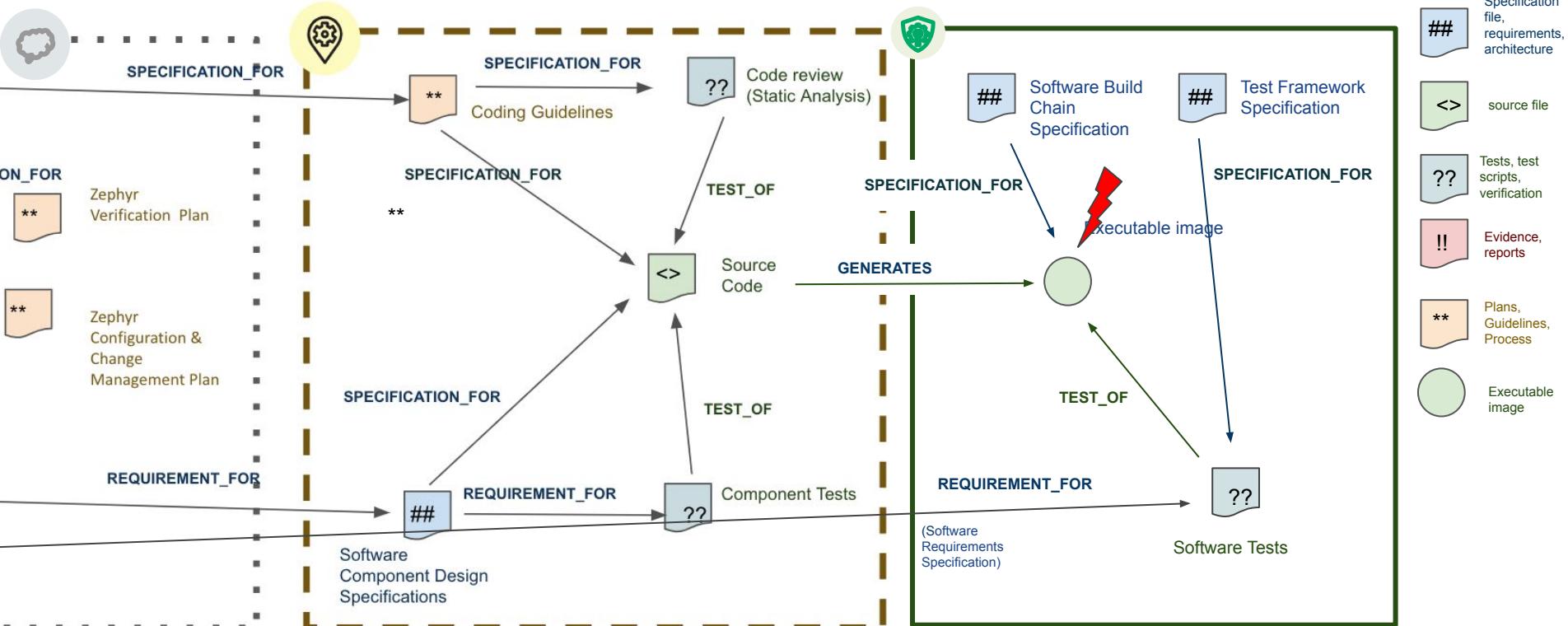
SPDX
SAFETY



Dependency Identification on Component Level



Dependency Identification on Component Level



- Specification file, requirements, architecture
- source file
- Tests, test scripts, verification
- Evidence, reports
- Plans, Guidelines, Process
- Executable image

Content for SPDX 3.1



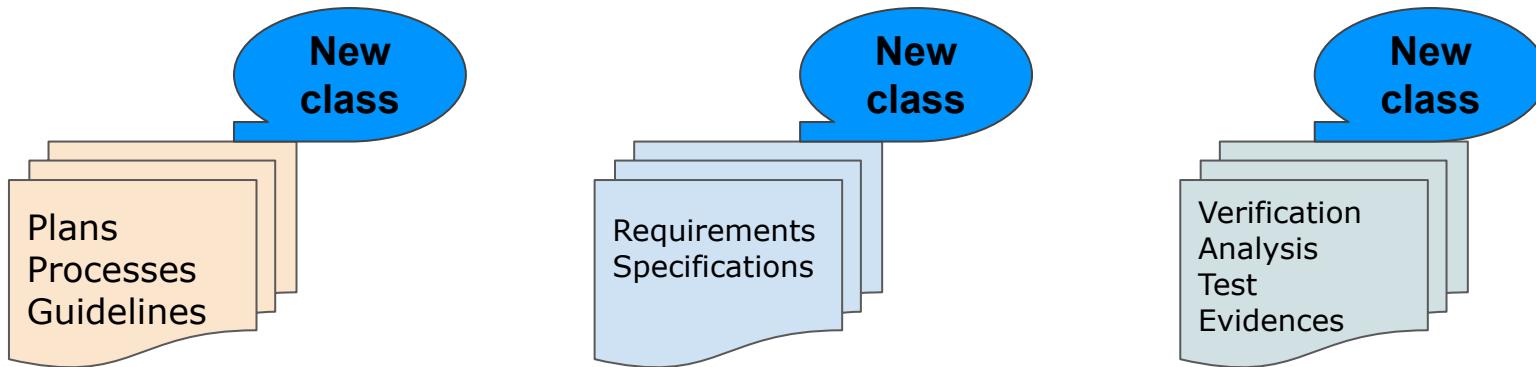
- Requirements Class
- Verification Class
- traceToDetail entry to Relationship Types to connect hierarchies of requirements
- Evidence Class & new Relationship Class for evidences

FuSa documentation structure



All FuSa related documentation is part of the Safety Case!

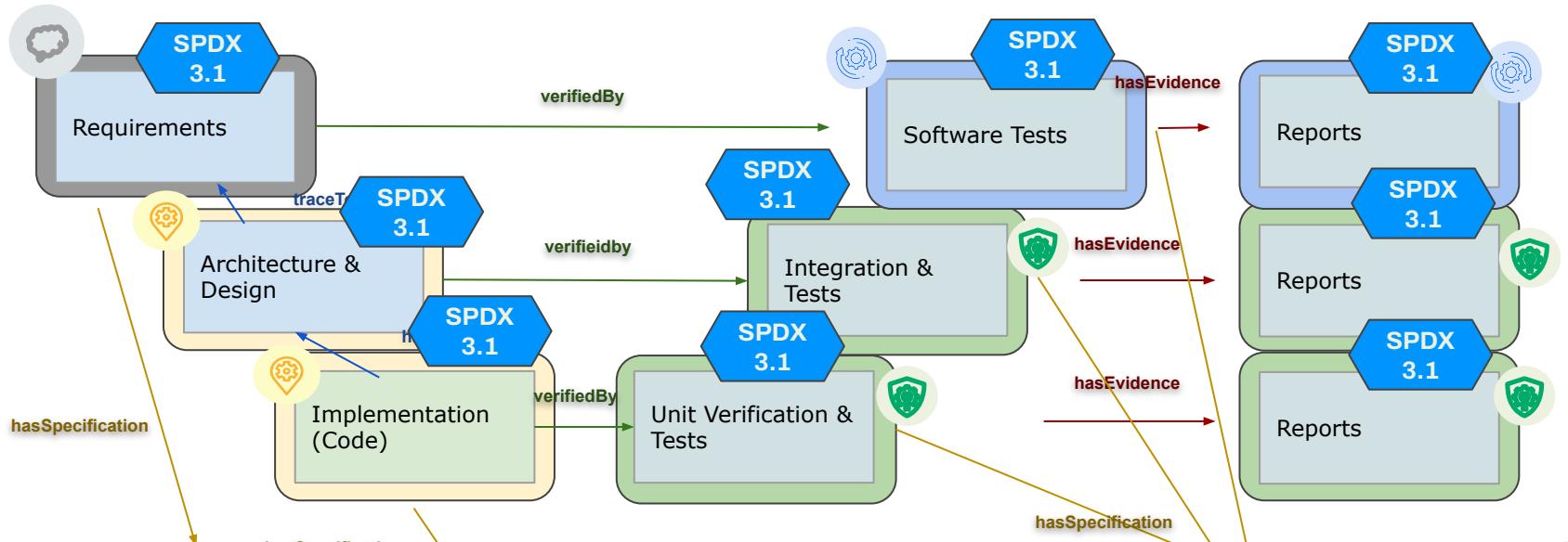
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Dependencies in a FuSa Project



SPDX 3.1-rc1



Functional Safety Management Plan

Requirements Management Plan

Configuration Management Plan

Documentation Management Plan

Component Qualification / Supply Chain

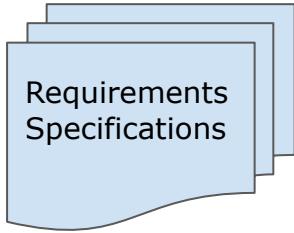
Validation & Assessment

Tooling Eval & Qualification (Dev, Verification, Build, Deploy...)

Classes for WPs - REQUIREMENT



RC SPDX 3.1

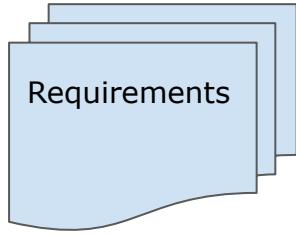


Determining factors and assumptions:

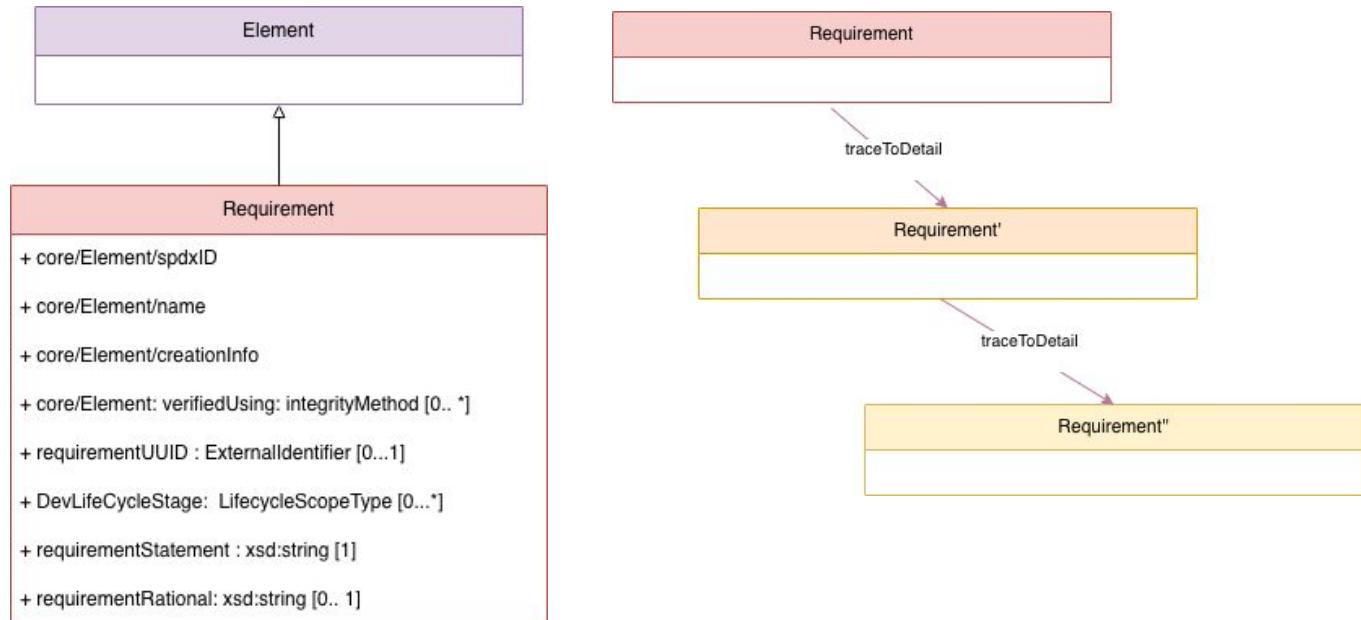
- A requirement describes a functional, non-functional or design need placed on an item (HW, SW, system, whatever can be the product)
- There are different sources of requirements
- Atomic REQUIREMENTS entities can be packaged to Requirement sets that then can become part of specifications ⇒ no new class needed, use existing SPDX functionality to bundle requirements to represent specifications

Classes for WPs - REQUIREMENT

RC SPDX 3.1



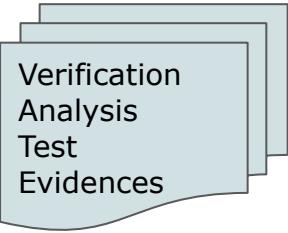
REQUIREMENT class



Classes for WPs - VERIFICATION



RC SPDX 3.1



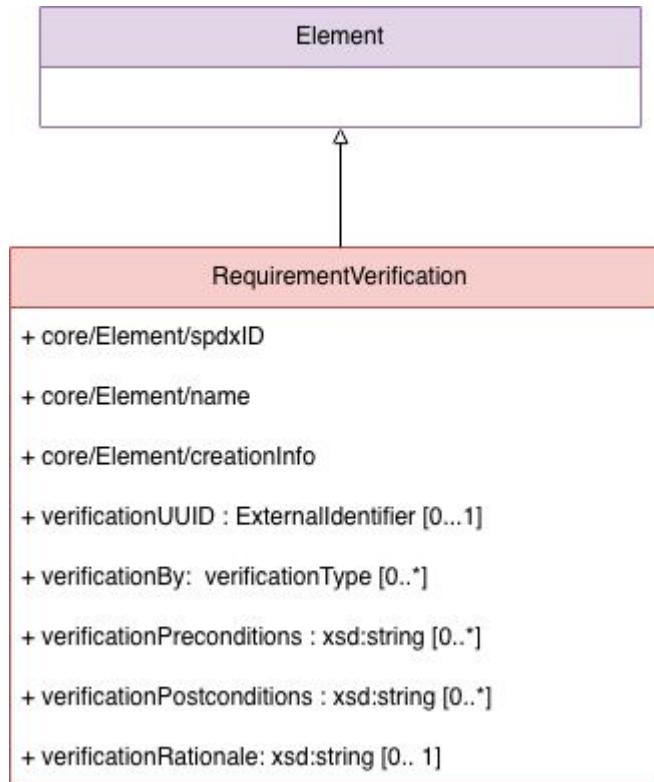
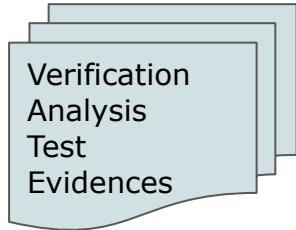
Determining factors and assumptions:

- There are different types of verifications, eg.
 - Test
 - Review/Inspection
 - Analysis
 - Demonstration
- Verification means we have a PROCESS how to do VERIFICATION and some evidence that this verification was performed and what were the environmental and runtime conditions of these tests
- While the verification PROCESS is a process that can be defined using the PROCESS class, a test case/suite/checklist looks very much like a REQUIREMENT, but not exactly
 - ⇒ need class for VERIFICATION specification to have something that describes test cases

Classes for WPs - VERIFICATION



RC SPDX 3.1

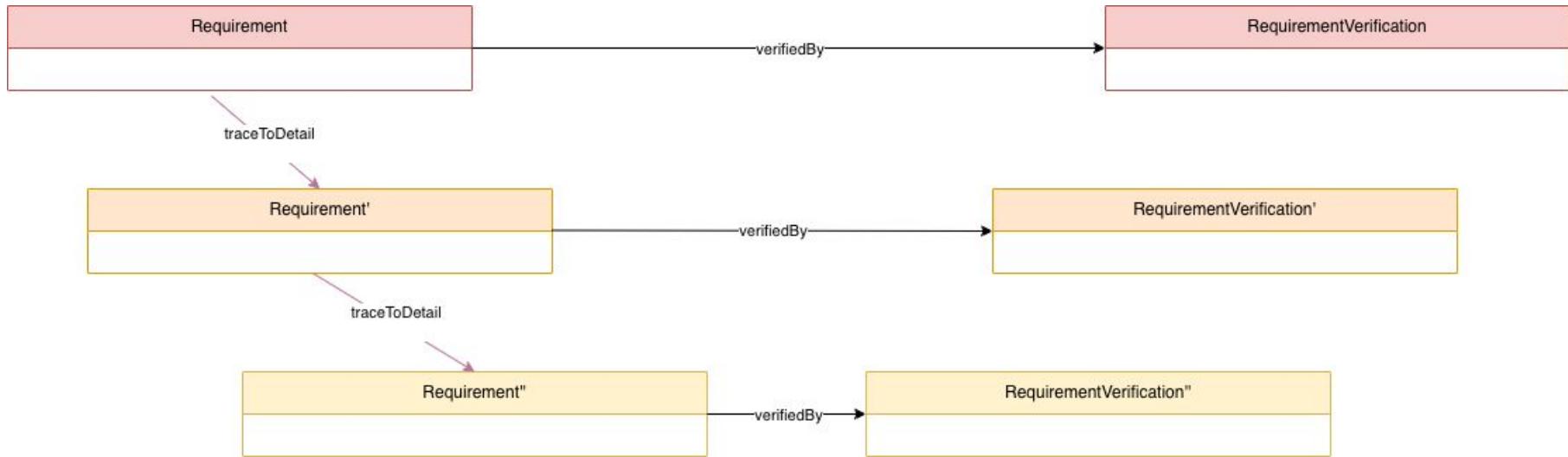


enum: verificationType
Review
Inspection
Analysis
Test
Demonstration
Assessment
Audit
other

Req and Ver - Relationships



RC SPDX 3.1



Classes for WPs - EVIDENCE

RC SPDX 3.1



Evidence
(test reports,
build logs,
etc.)

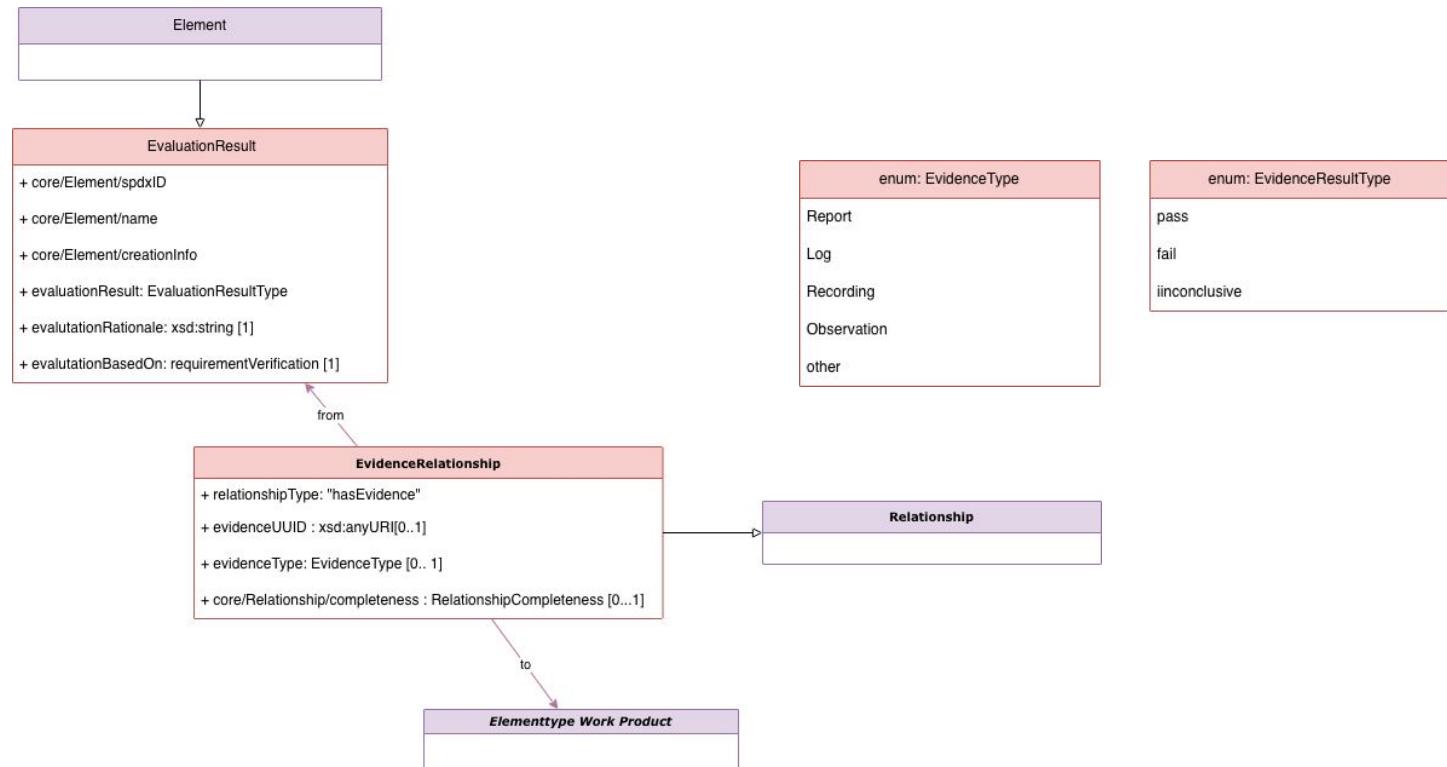
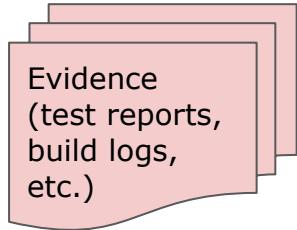
Determining factors and assumptions:

- EVIDENCES attest a certain level of compliance of
 - a tested item (code) with its acceptance criteria (requirement), using the test process and
 - For a specific pair of verification input, verification specification and verification results
- EVIDENCES are highly coupled with VERIFICATION

Classes for WPs - EVIDENCE



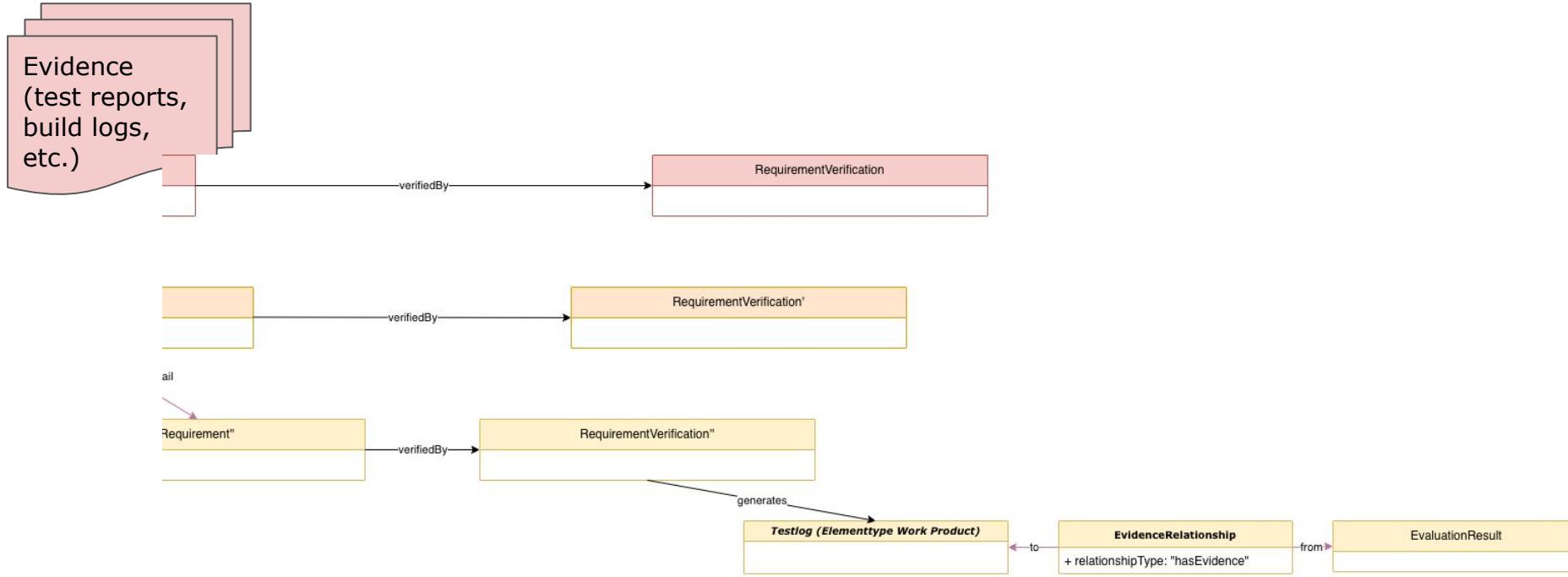
RC SPDX 3.1



Classes for WPs - EVIDENCE



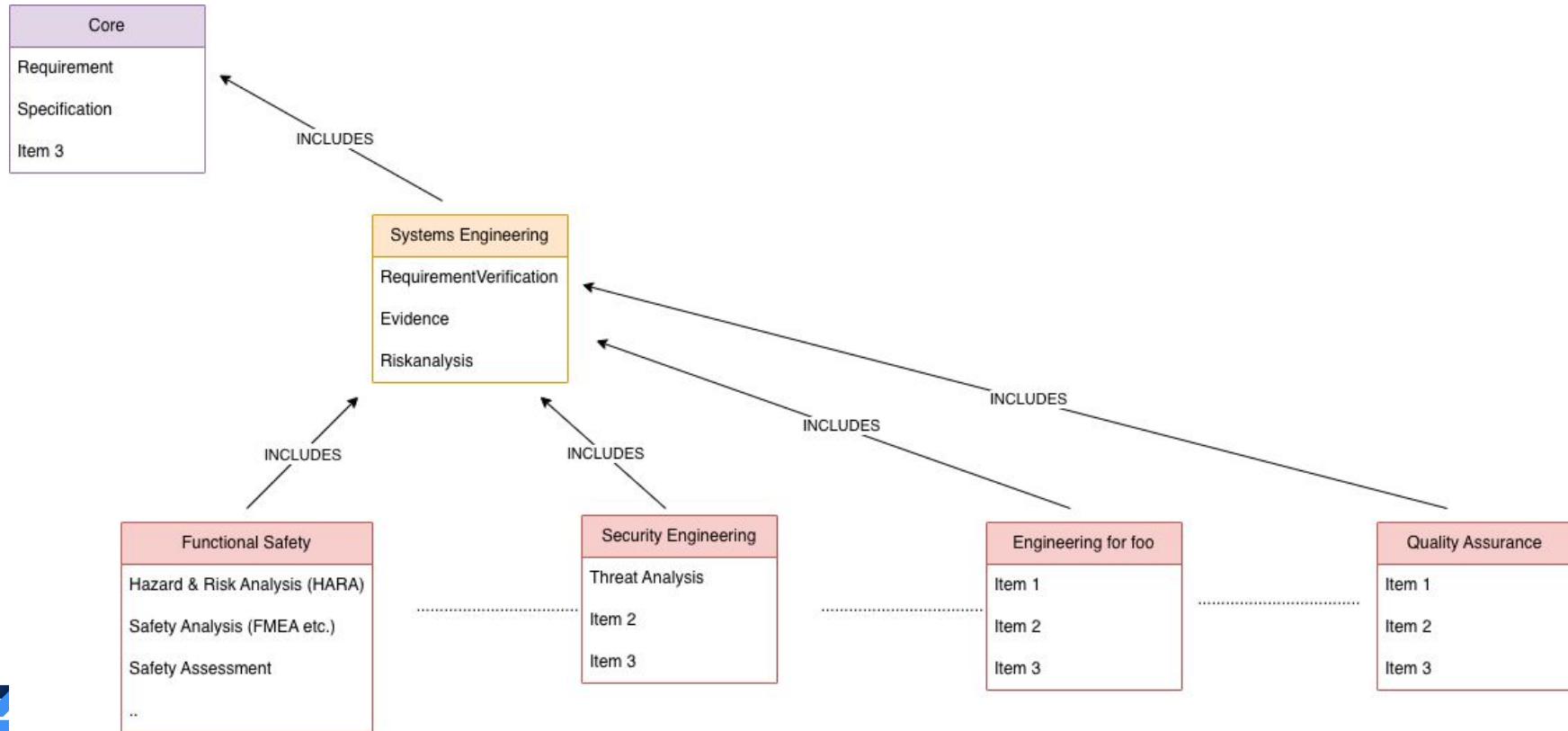
RC SPDX 3.1



A few things in the pipeline...



YES - we know its not just Functional Safety



A few things in the pipeline...

Pushed to RC 2 (or SPDX 3.2)



- Product line engineering - Product configuration, calibration etc.
- Task and Process
- Agent: Types, Qualifications etc.

Conclusions (so far)



- What we started for Functional Safety is universally valid for other System Engineering flavors
- Enabling standardized, automated format to exchange safety case documentation
- Tailored SBOMs for design phase, dev phase (source SBOM), runtime and deployed phase
- Reproducible impact analysis
- Tool agnostic information exchange
- Compliance as code approach

... to be continued

Talk to us:

nicole@alektometis.com

kstewart@linuxfoundation.org

[Mailing List](#)

[Weekly meeting Friday 18:00 CET/CEST](#)

