

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

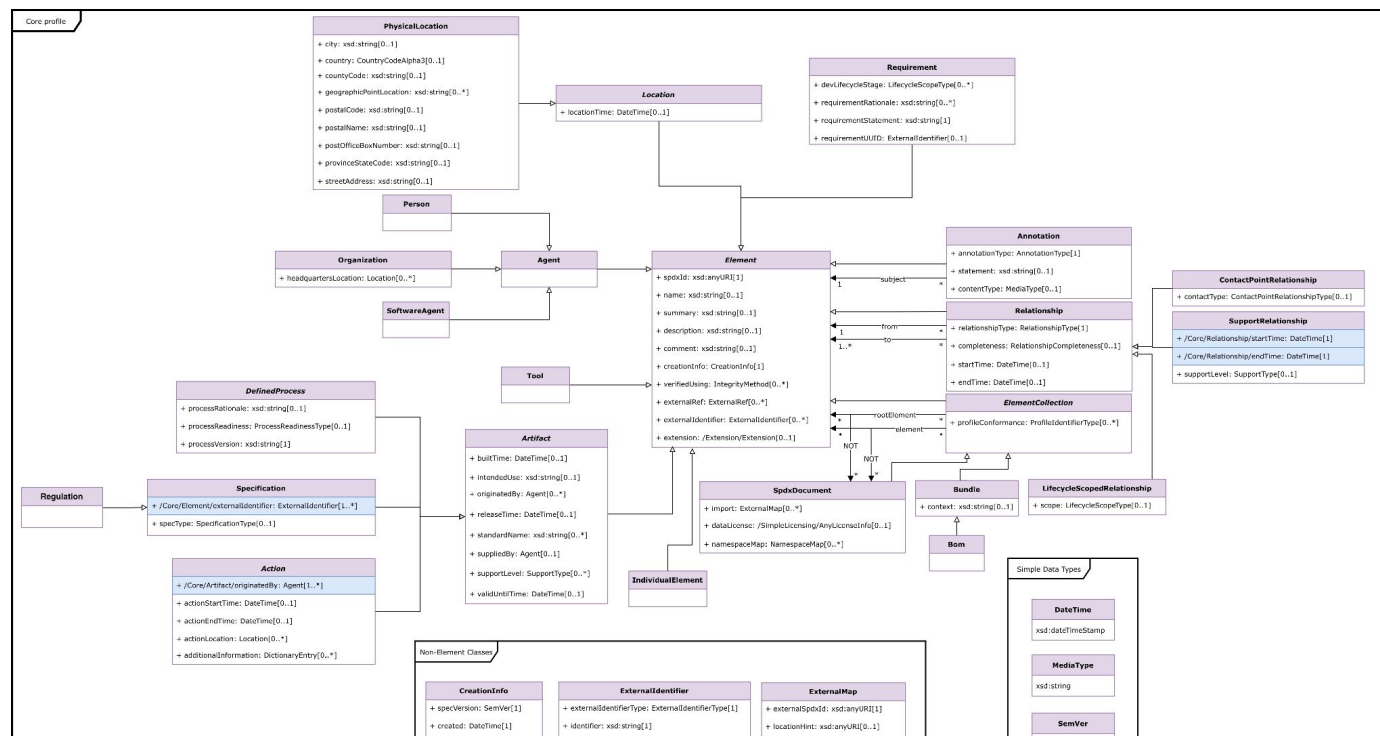
About SPDX

System Data Package Exchange



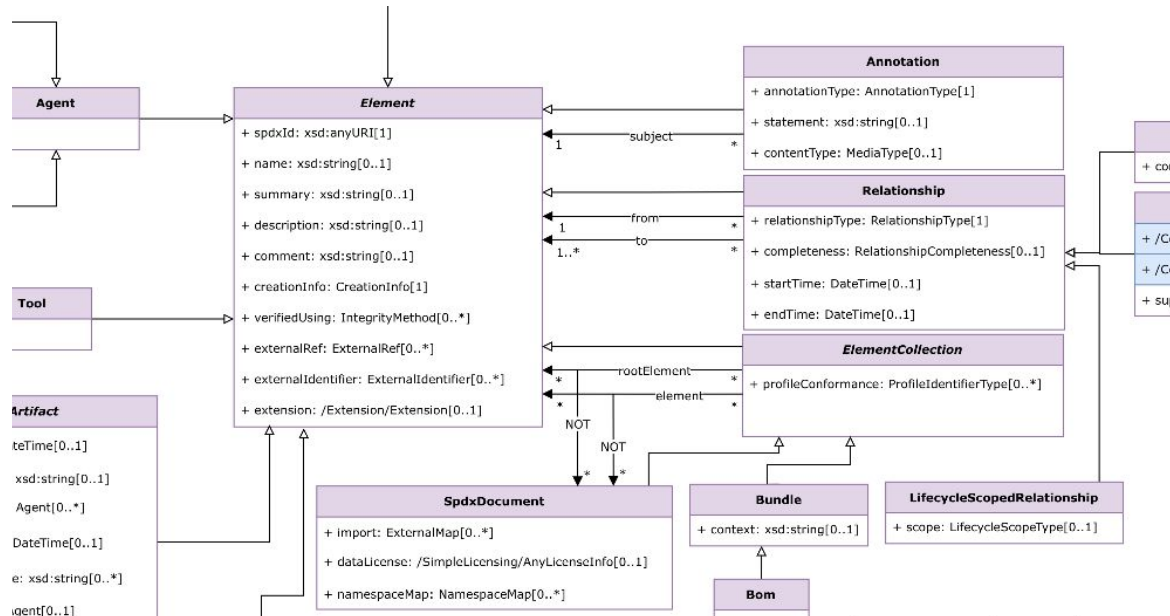
- Open standard, providing a format to describe software in both machine and human readable way
- Communicate SBOM information, including provenance, license, security, and other related information
- SPDX 2.3 -> ISO/IEC 5962:2021,
- SPDX 3.0 currently on the way to become an ISO/IEC standard
- SPDX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

Core



SPDX 3.1-rc1 Element class

Core

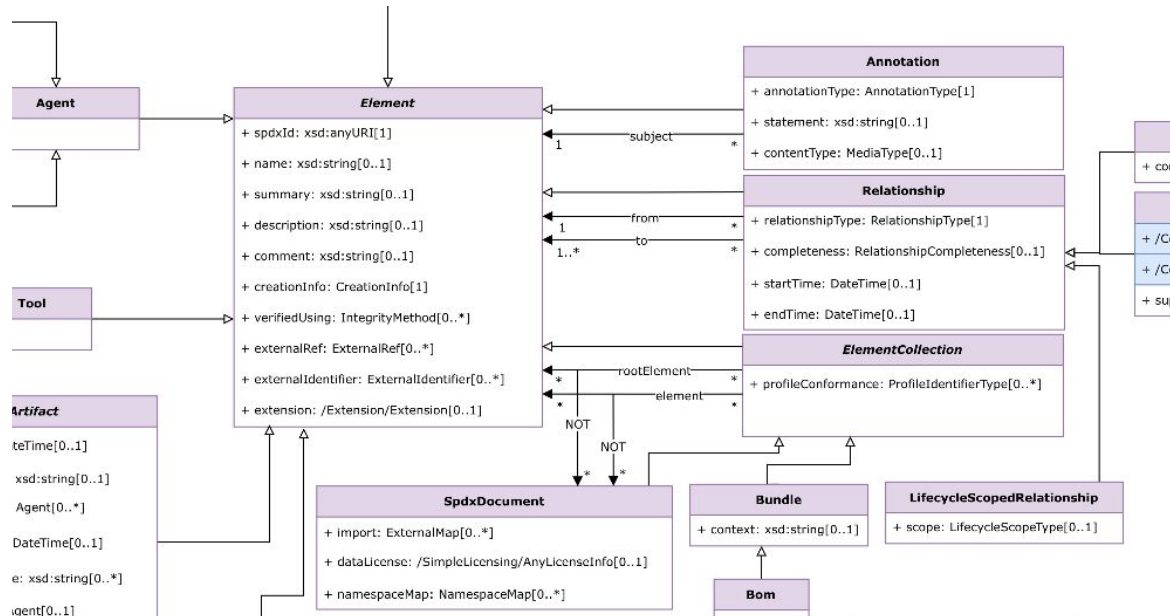


Element:

Basic class, includes e.g. information on

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

Core



Class describing dependencies, like

- hasEvidence
- hasSpecification
- verifiedBy
- traceToDetail

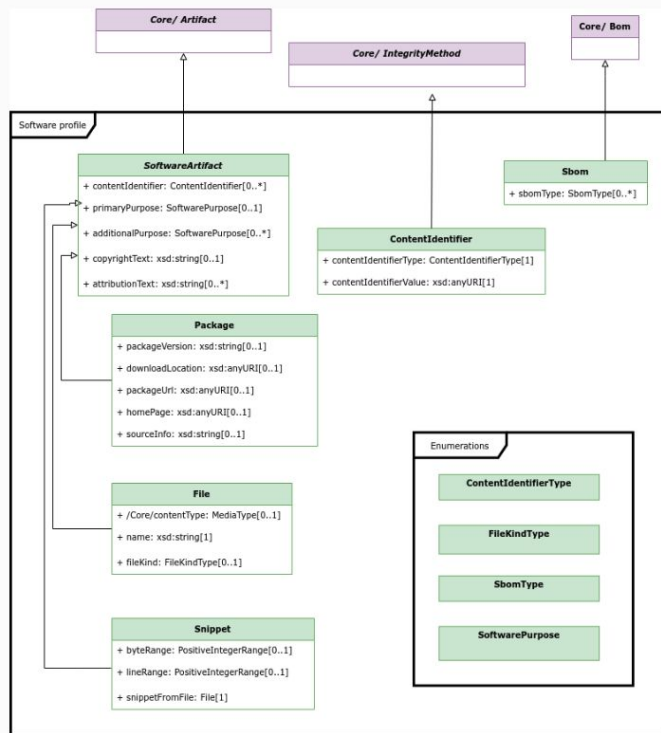
A relationship can be complete or incomplete

SPDX 3.0 Profiles

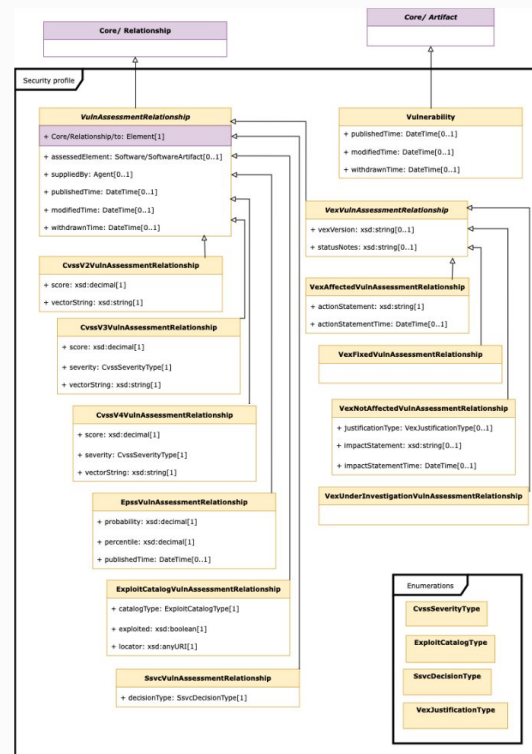
Examples



Software Profile



Security Profile



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

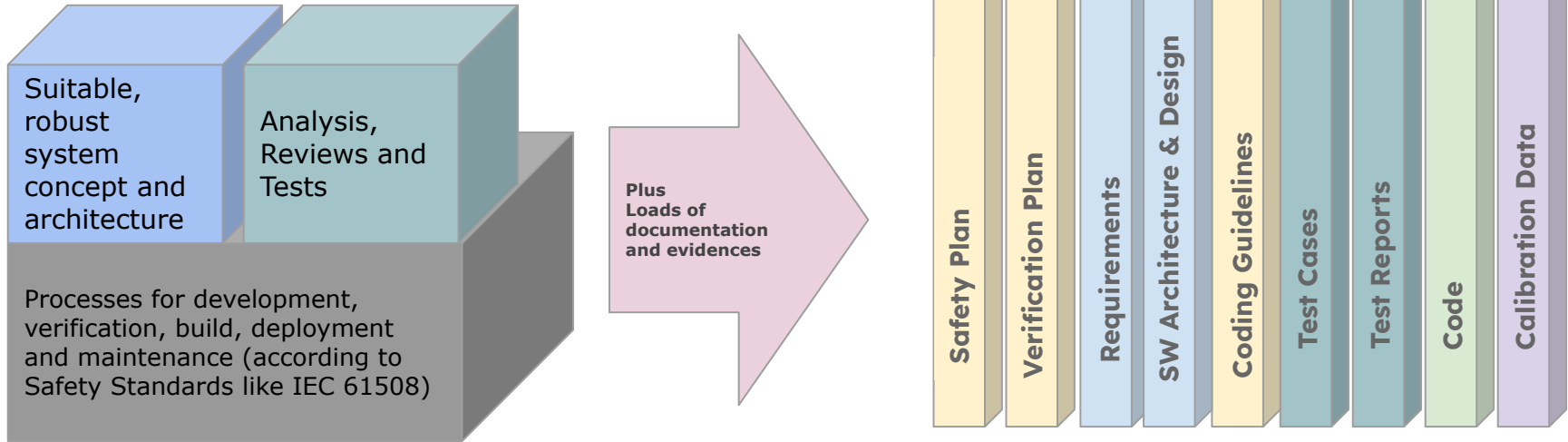
- Process application and guidelines to implemented work products
- Specifications, requirements, architecture, safety analysis, code, tests and test reports

Use Case 3: Support of automated assessments

- Standardized assessment interfaces

Use Case - Exchange Information

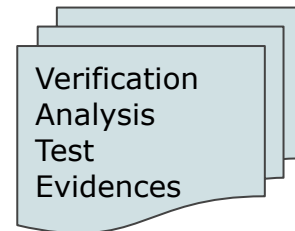
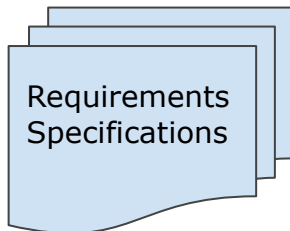
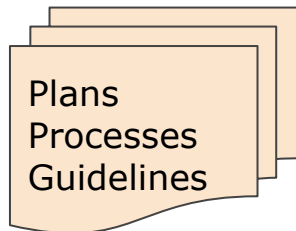
Safety Case documentation



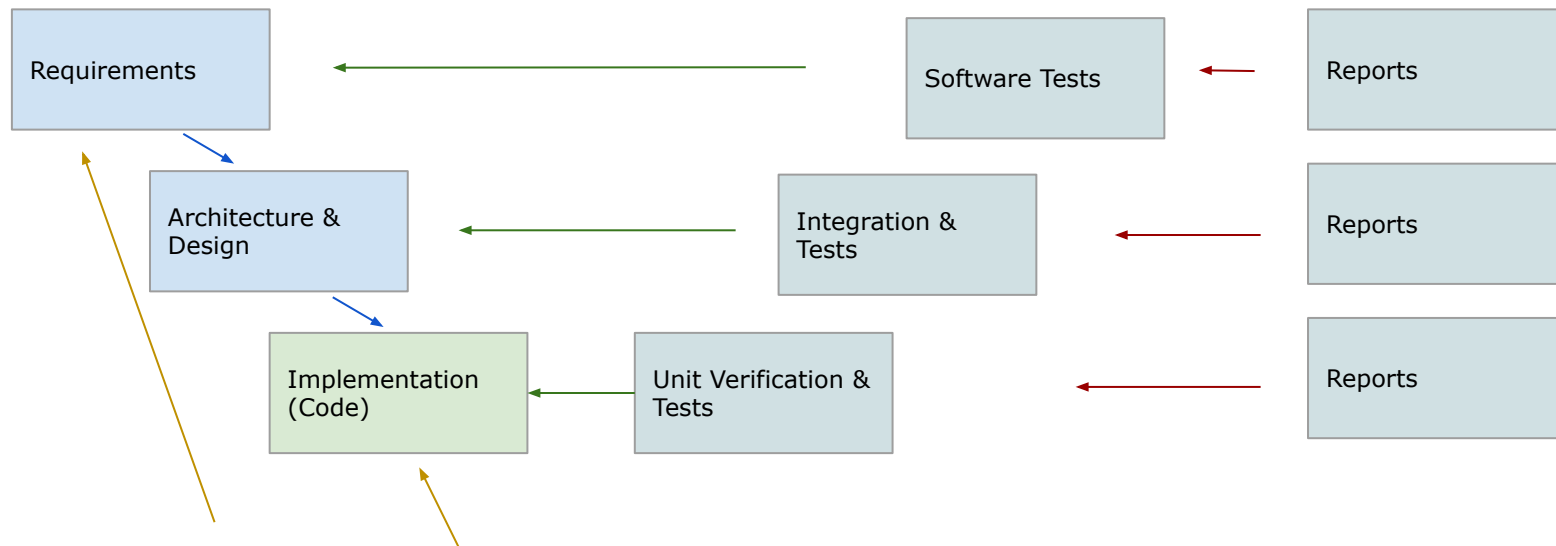
FuSa documentation structure

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

Plans
Processes
Guidelines

One or more
repos, git or svn
based

Code,
Build data,
executables

Zoo of lifecycle
management systems,
.pdf, .docx

Requirements
Specifications

Verification
Analysis
Test
Evidences

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

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

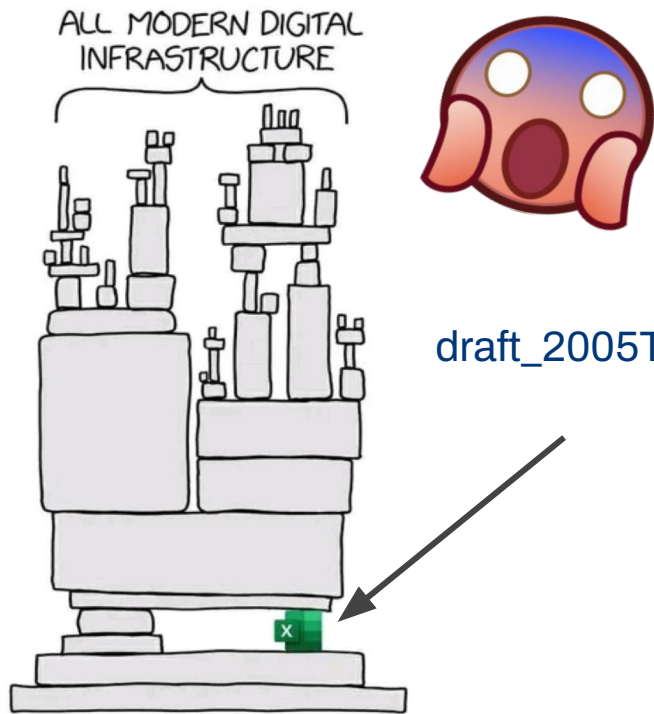
Zoo of lifecycle
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Requirements
Specifications

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

No 1 Safety Information Exchange Format

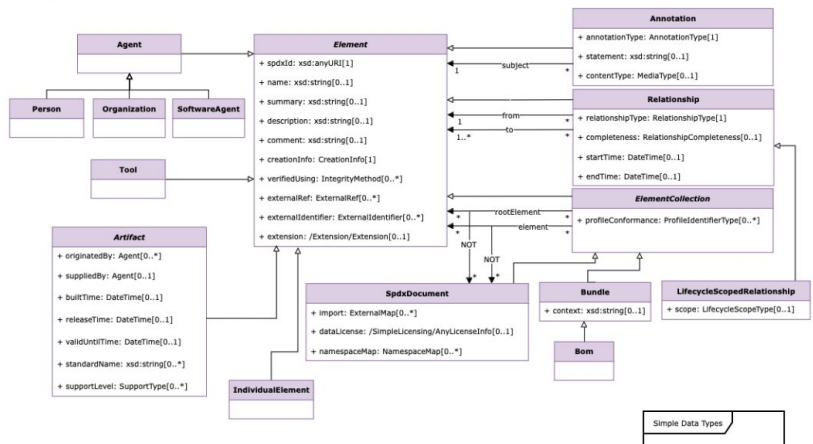


draft_2005TemplateSafetyCase_thisproject_final_forTraceingv06.xls

Why not use this instead?

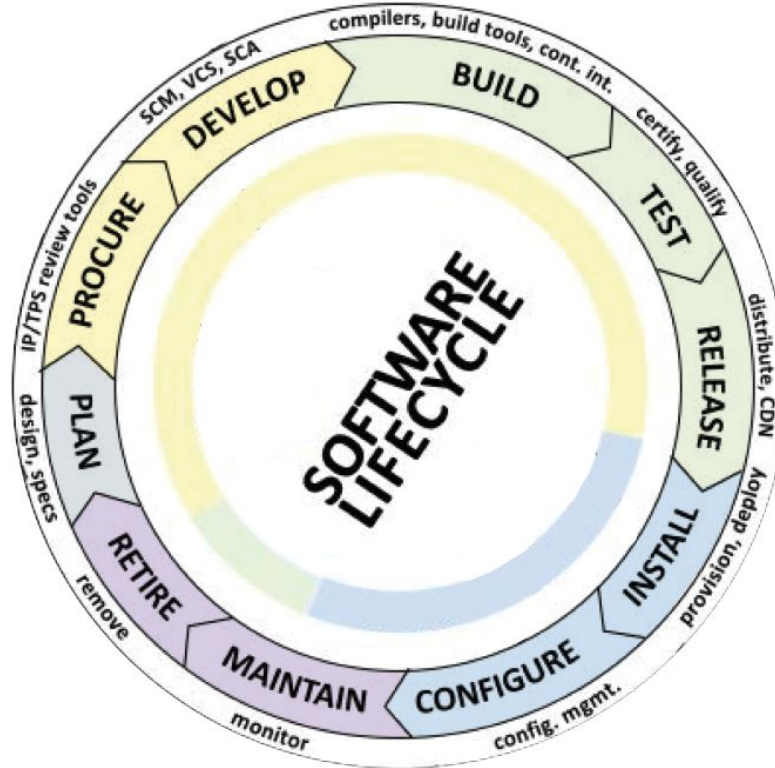


Core profile



Core Enumerations		RelationshipType	ExternalRefType	AnnotationType
Meta	assignedBy	[Element -> Element]	altDownloadLocation	other
	describes	[Element -> Element]	altMetaType	review
	modifiedBy	[Element -> Element]	binaryArtifact	
	other	[Element -> Element] comment	bower	
Structure	contains	[Element -> Element]	buildMeta	
			buildSystem	
Behavioral	configures	[Element -> Element]	certificationReport	
	delegatesTo	[Element -> Element]	chat	
	dependsOn	[Element -> Element]	componentAnalysisReport	
			documentation	
Pedigree	copiedTo	[Element -> Element]	dynamicAnalysisReport	
	expandedTo	[Artifact -> Artifact]	echotool	
	generates	[Artifact -> Artifact]	exportControlAssessment	
	hasAddedFile	[Element -> Element]	funding	
Provenance	hasDatafile	[Element -> Element]	issueTracker	
	hasDeletedFile	[Element -> Element]	license	
			mailingList	
			manCentral	
Serialization	investorOf	[Element -> Element]	metrics	
	availableFrom	[Element -> Element]	npm	
	descendantOf	[Element -> Element]	nugget	
	variant	[Artifact -> Artifact]	other	
Build	serializesInArtifact	[SpdxDocument -> Artifact]	privacyAssessment	
	hasDependencyManifest	[Element -> Element]	productMetadata	
	hasDistributionArtifact	[Element -> Element]	purchaseOrder	
	hasDocumentation	[Element -> Element]	qualityAssessmentReport	
HasStaticLink	hasDynamicLink	[Element -> Element]	releaseHistory	
	hasSample	[Element -> Element]	releaseNotes	
	hasInput	[Build -> Element]	riskAssessment	
	hasMetadata	[Element -> Element]	runtimeAnalysisReport	
HasProvidedDependency	hasOptionalComponent	[Element -> Element]	securedForwardAttestation	
	hasOptionalDependency	[Element -> Element]	securityAdversary	
	hasOutput	[Build -> Element]	securityAdversaryModel	
	hasRequirement	[Element -> Element]	securityFile	
HasTest	hasStaticLink	[Element -> Element]	securityOther	
	hasTest	[Element -> Element]	securityPenTestReport	
	hasTestCase	[Element -> Element]	securityPolicy	
	hasVariant	[Element -> Element]	securityThreatModel	
Security	invokeBy	[Element -> Agent]	socialMedia	
	packageBy	[Element -> Element]	sourceArtifact	
	patchBy	[Element -> Element]	staticAnalysisReport	
	useTool	[Element -> Element]	suggest	
AI Dataset	hasConcludedLicense	[SoftwareArtifact -> AnyLicenseInfo]	vcs	
	hasDeclaredLicense	[SoftwareArtifact -> AnyLicenseInfo]	vulnerabilityDisclosureReport	
			vulnerabilityExploitabilityAssessment	
HashAlgorithm	adler32			
	blake2b256			
	blake2b384			
	blake2s256			
PresenceType	blake3			
	crystalsDilithium			
	crystalsKyber			
	sha1			
SupportType	sha224			
	sha256			
	sha384			
	sha512			

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

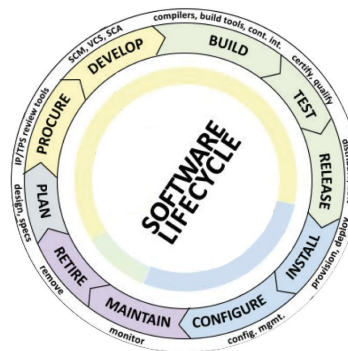
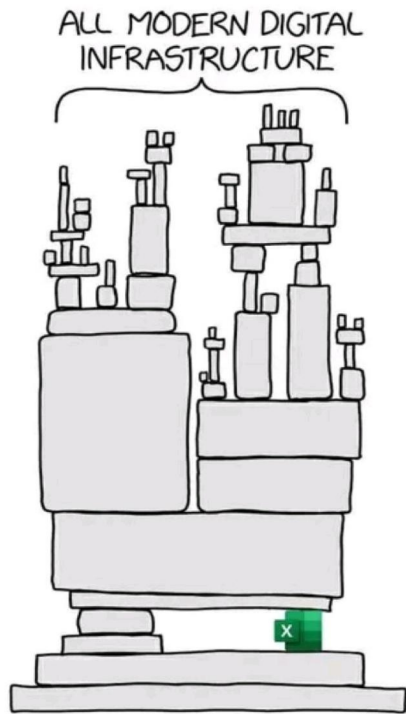
Final integrated system

Deployed SBOM



Safety Information Exchange Format?

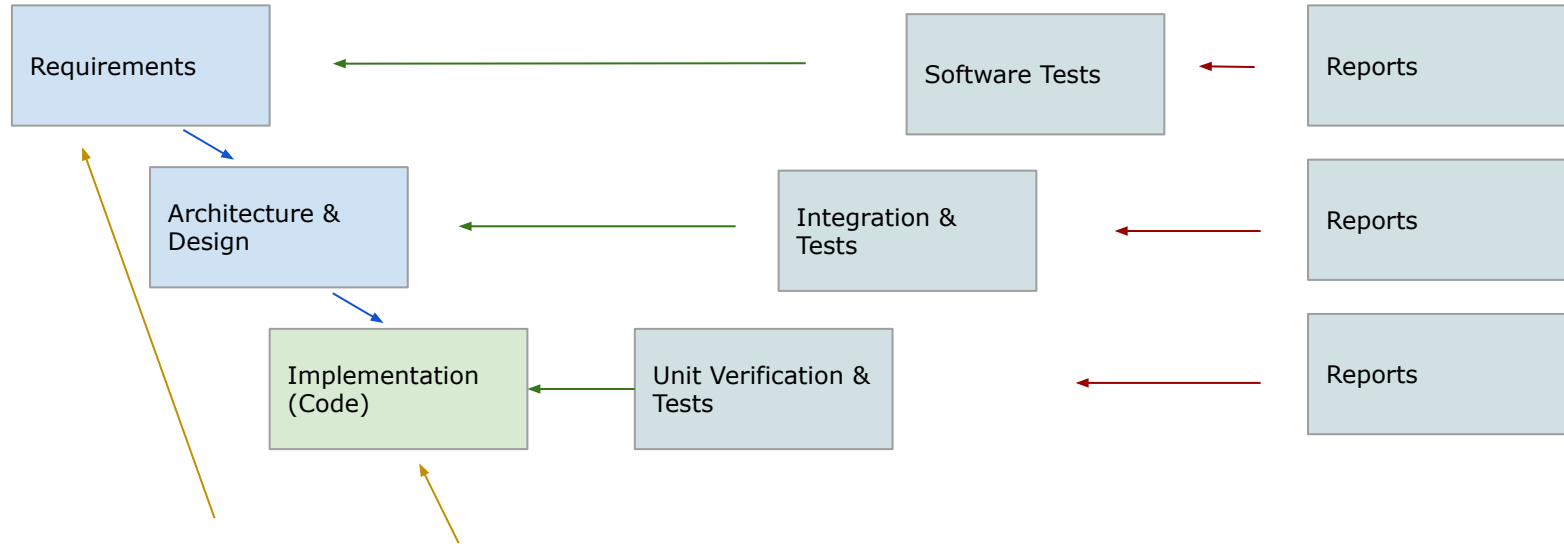
SPDX SBOM



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

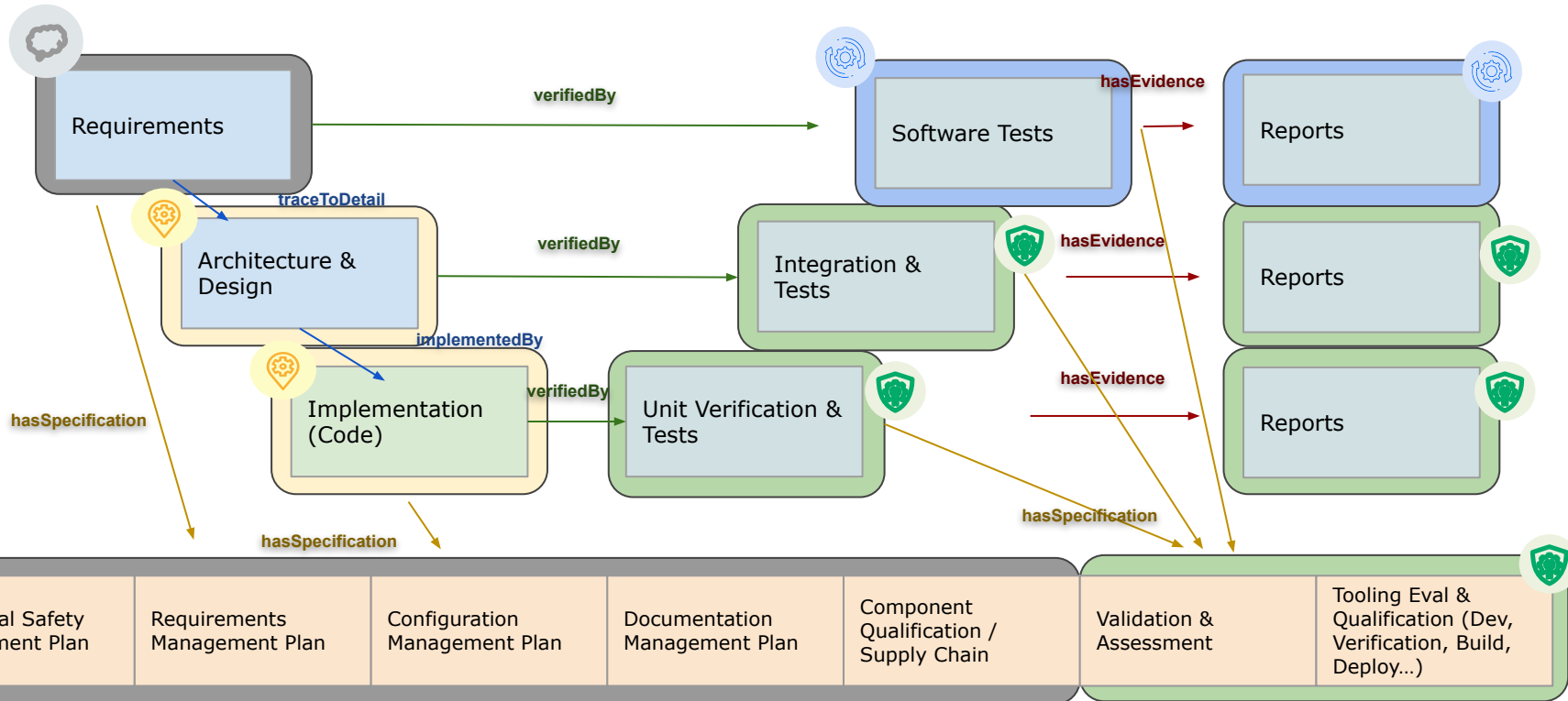
Use Case - Traceability

Dependencies in a FuSa Project



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Dependencies in a FuSa Project*

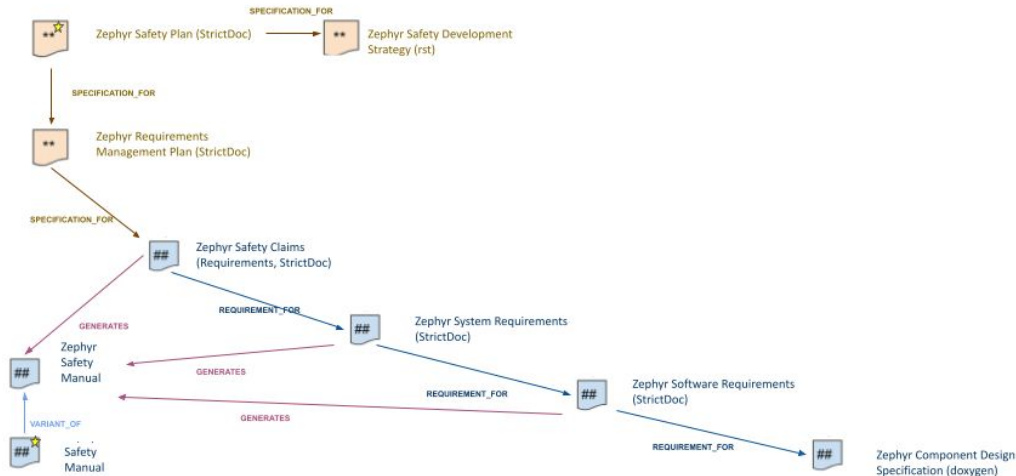


Zephyr Requirements Management

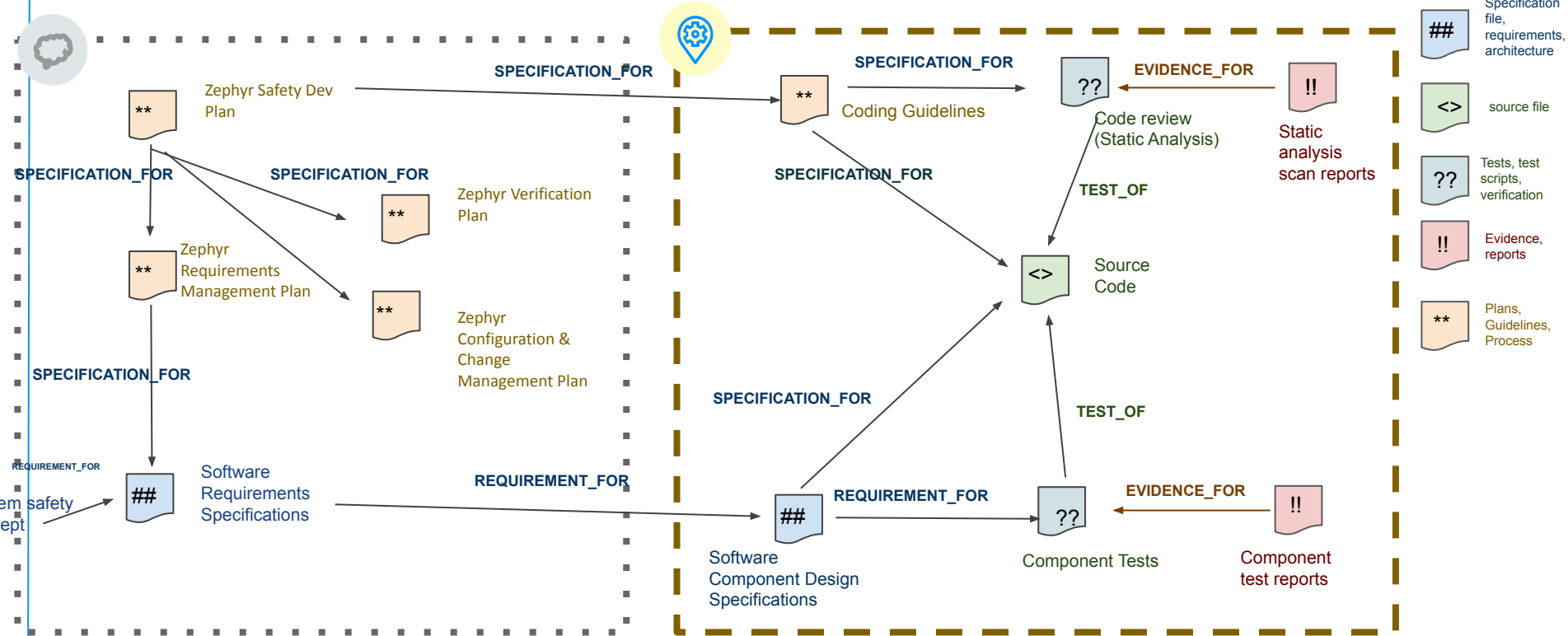
Requirements Management Knowledge Model



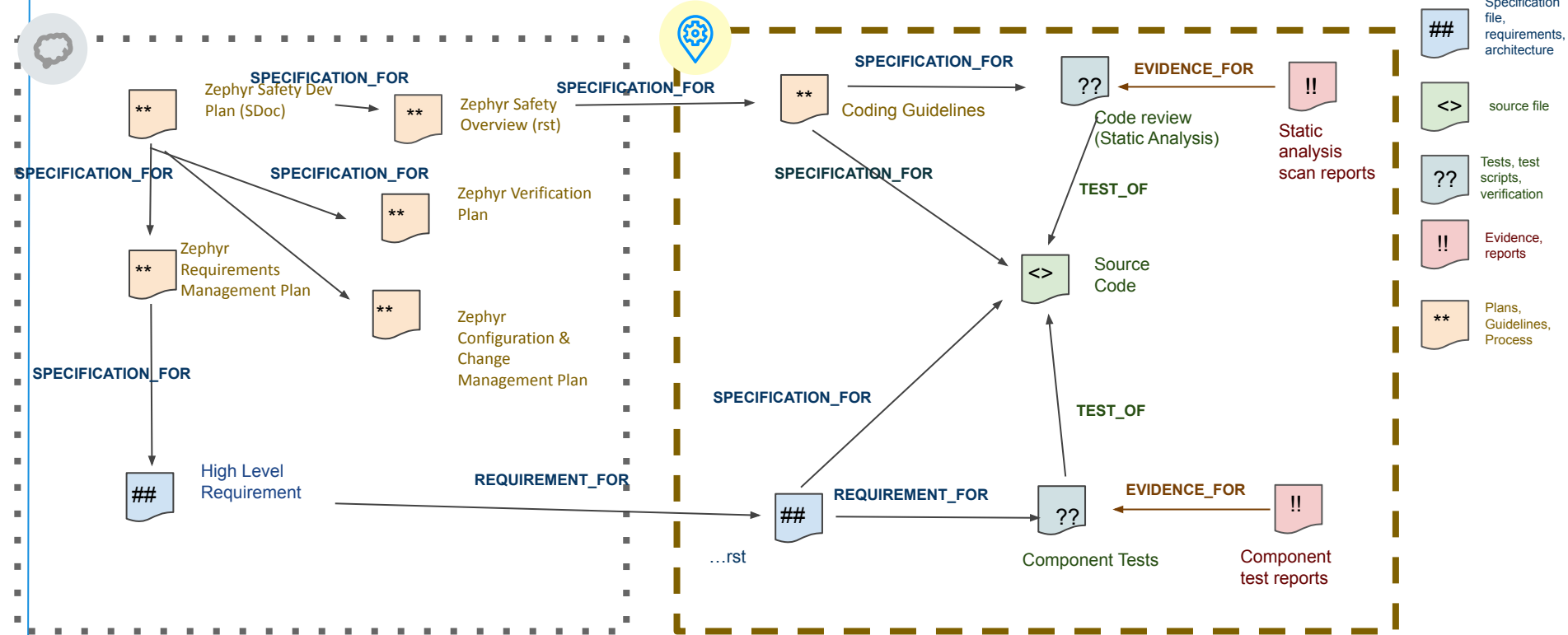
Safety Committee View ☆



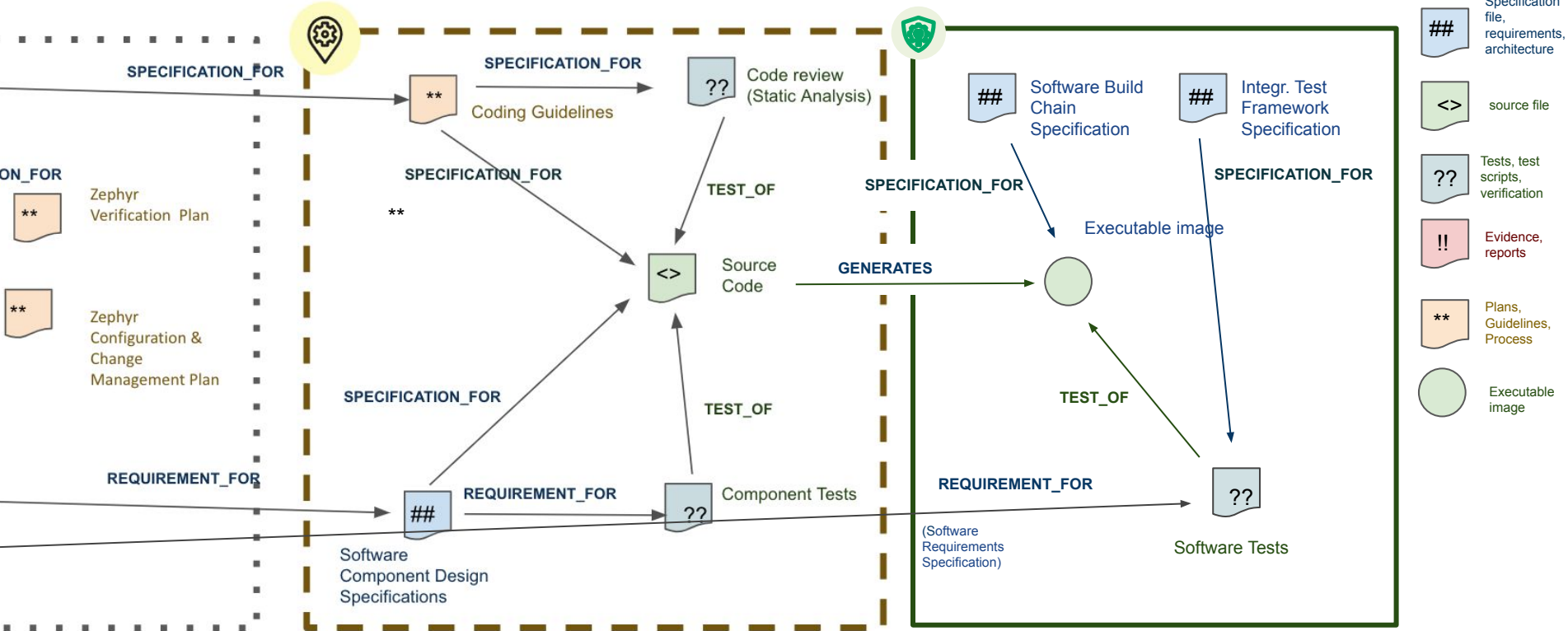
Dependencies of Safety Plan, Safety Claim, Req, Design and Code



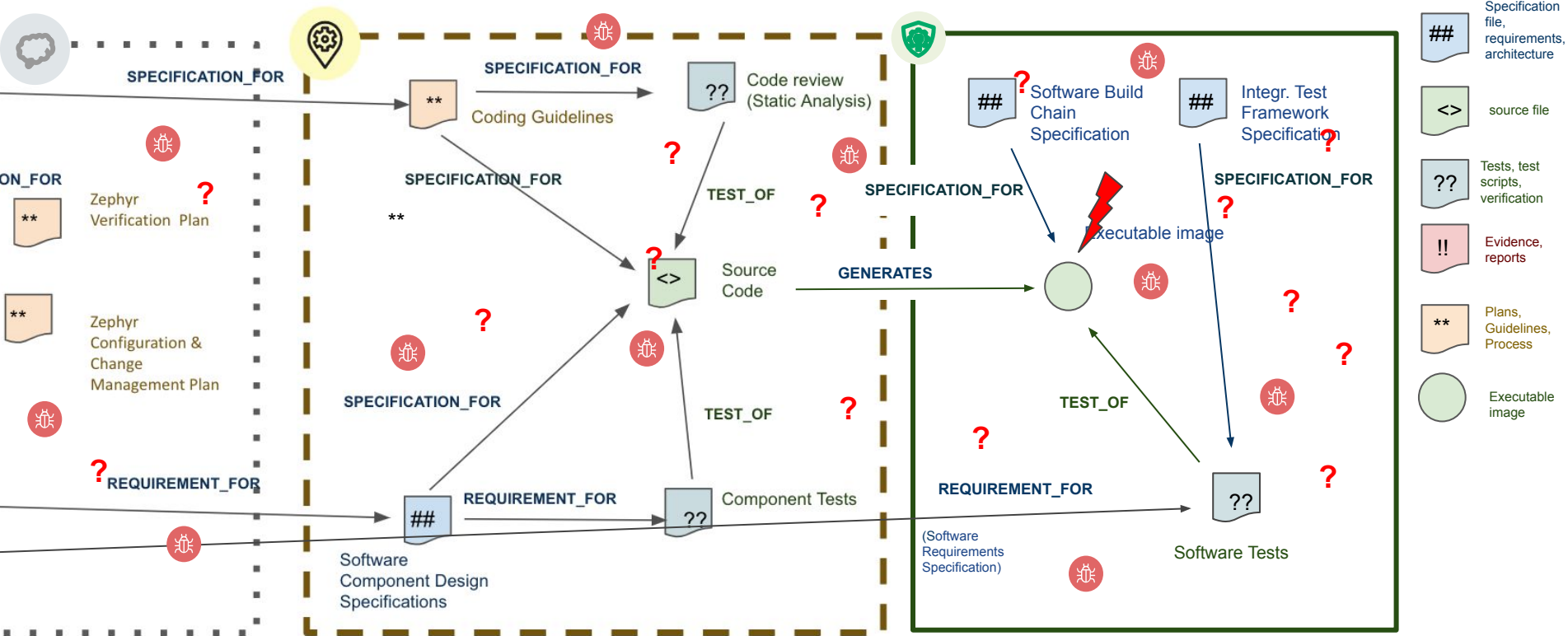
Design SBOM to Source SBOM



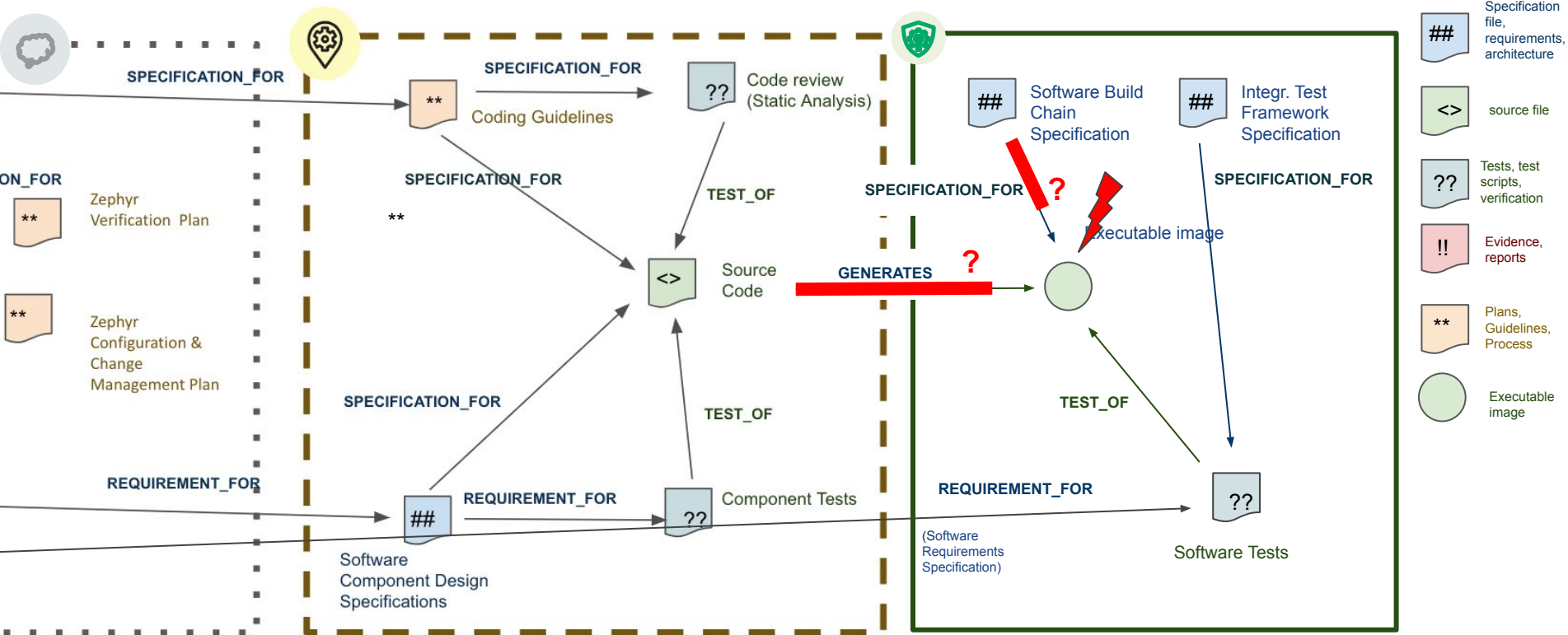
Source SBOM to Build SBOM



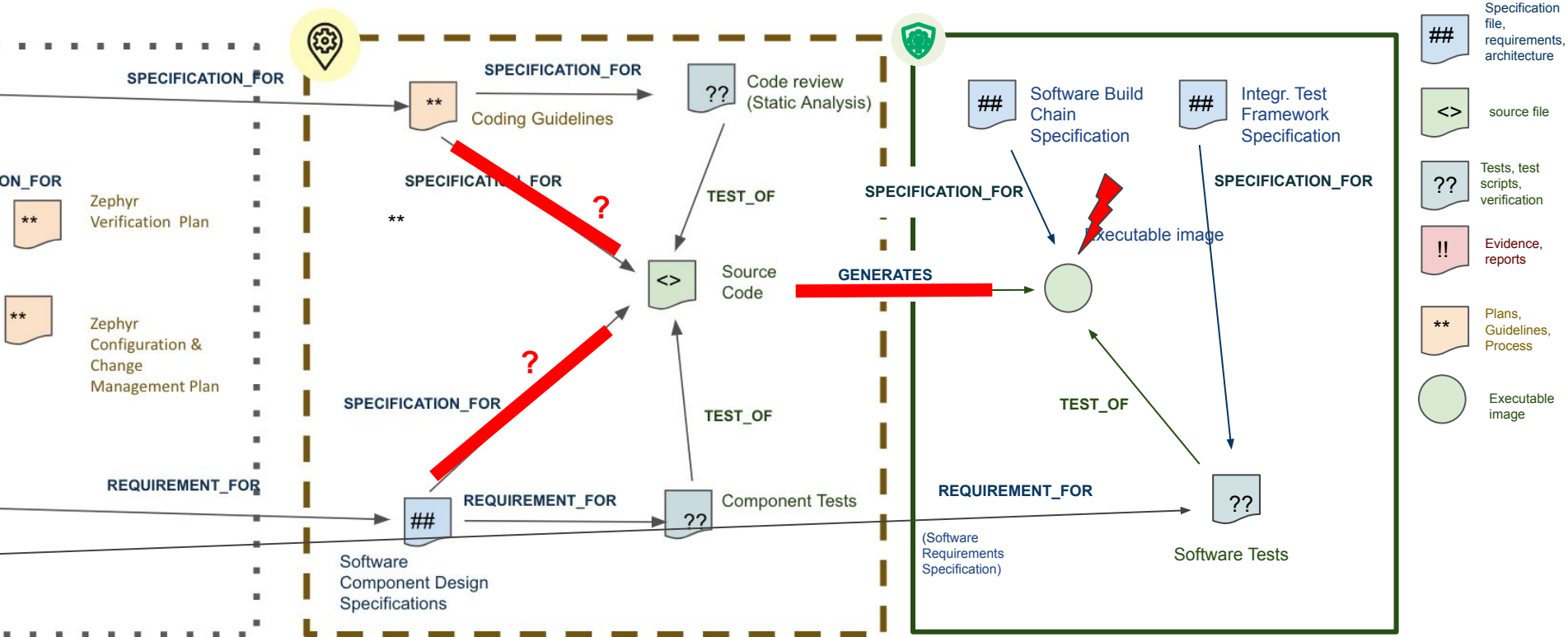
Dependency Identification on Component Level



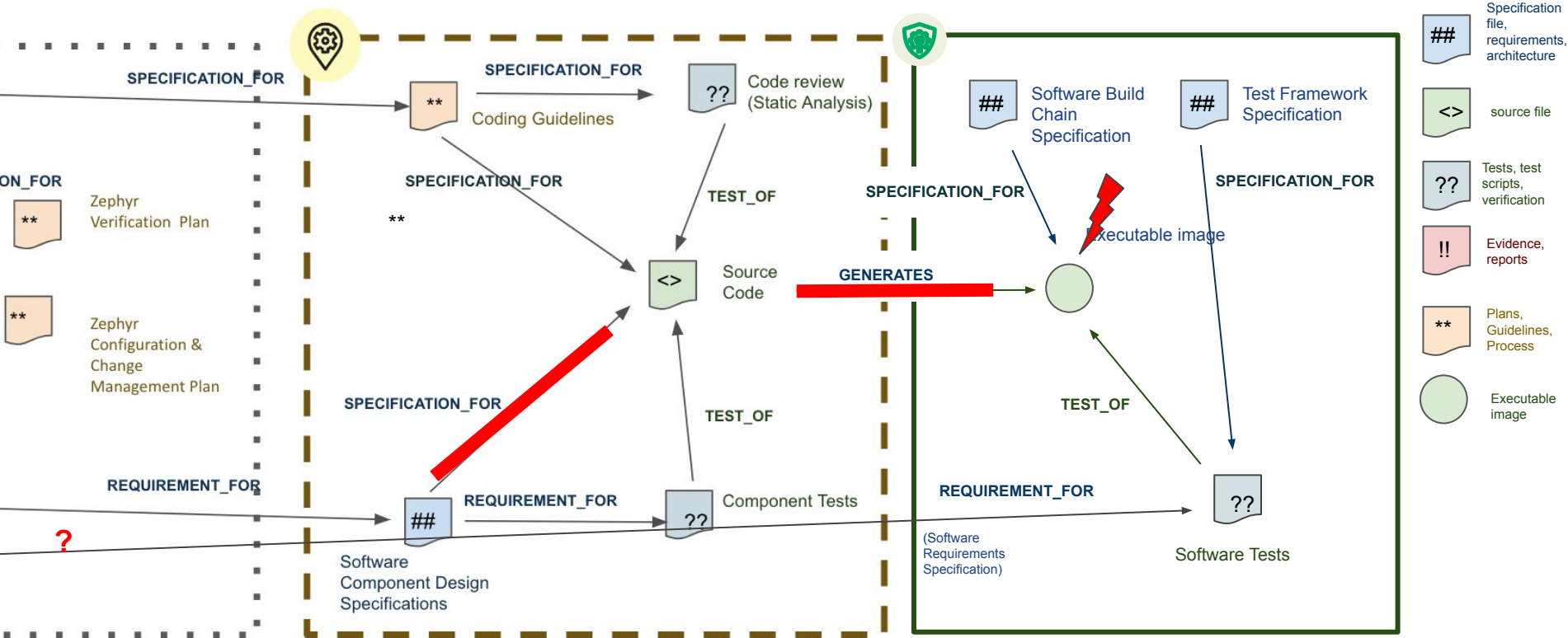
Dependency Identification on Component Level



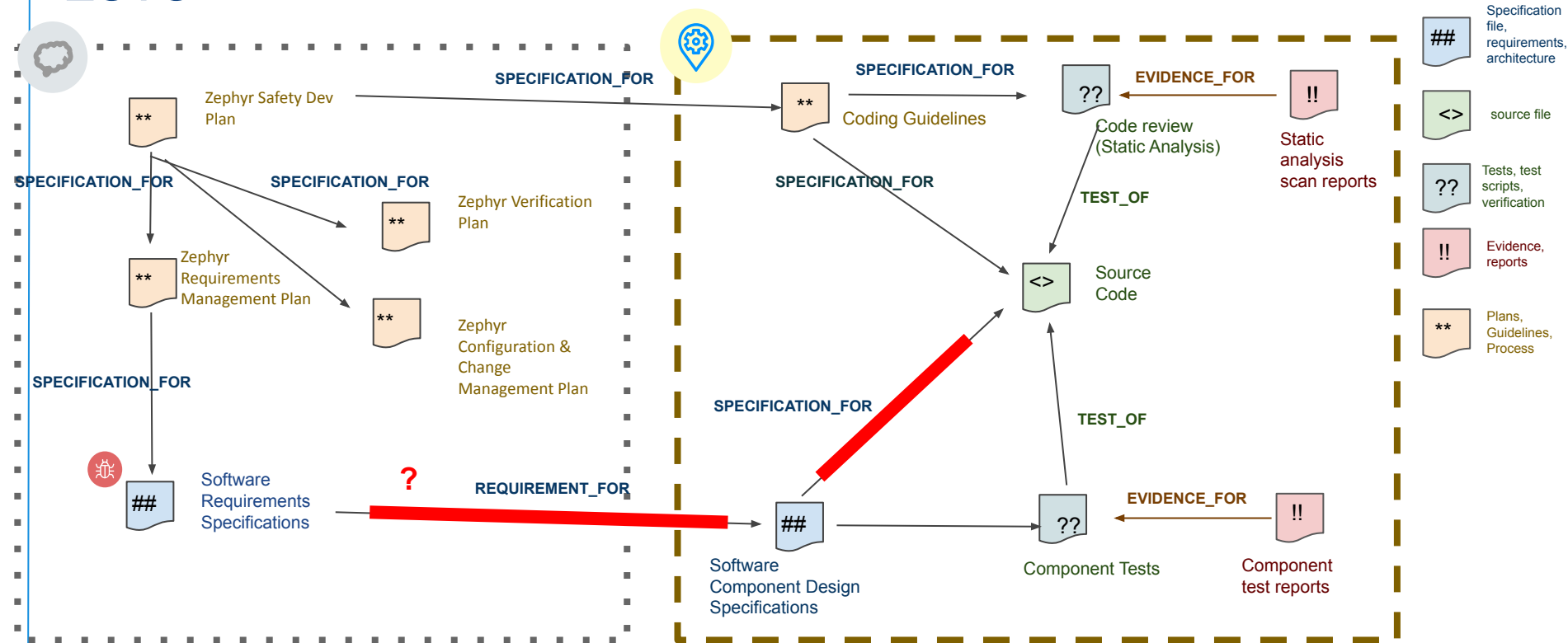
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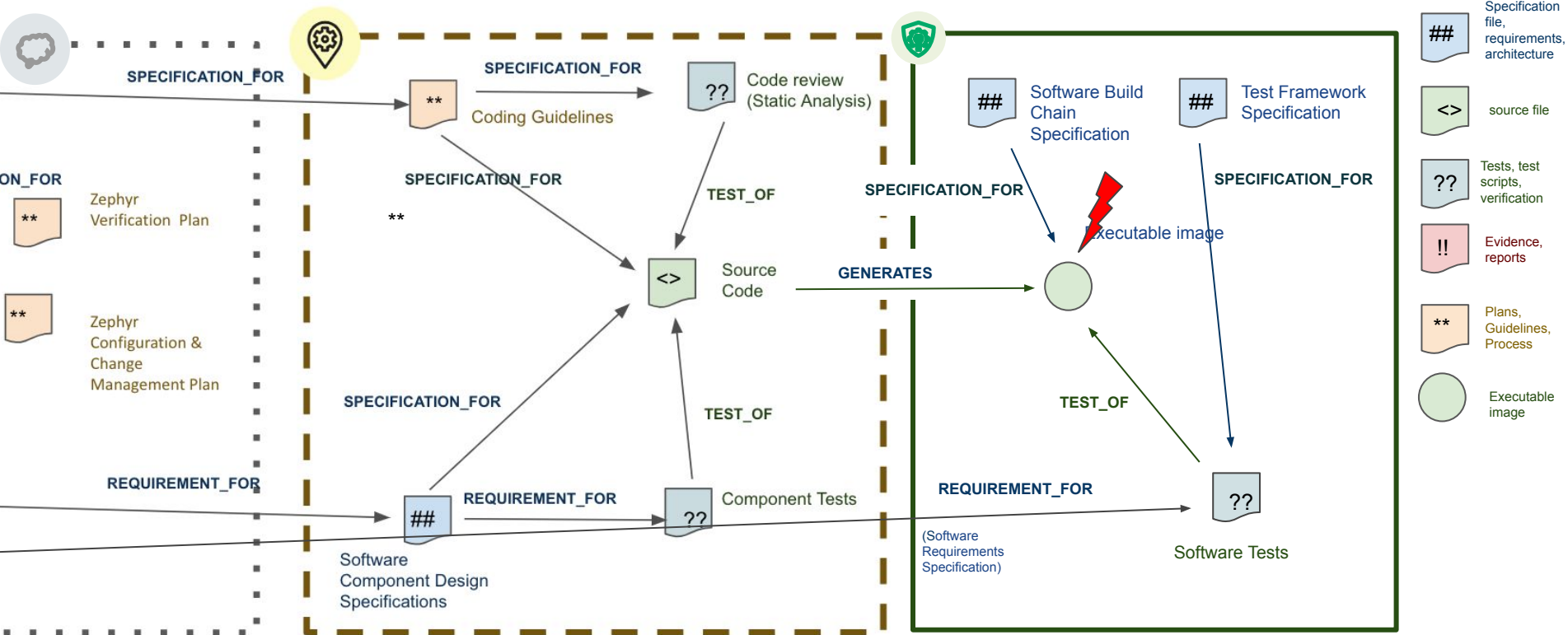
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Dependency Identification on Component Level



Dependency Identification on Component Level



Content for SPDX 3.1

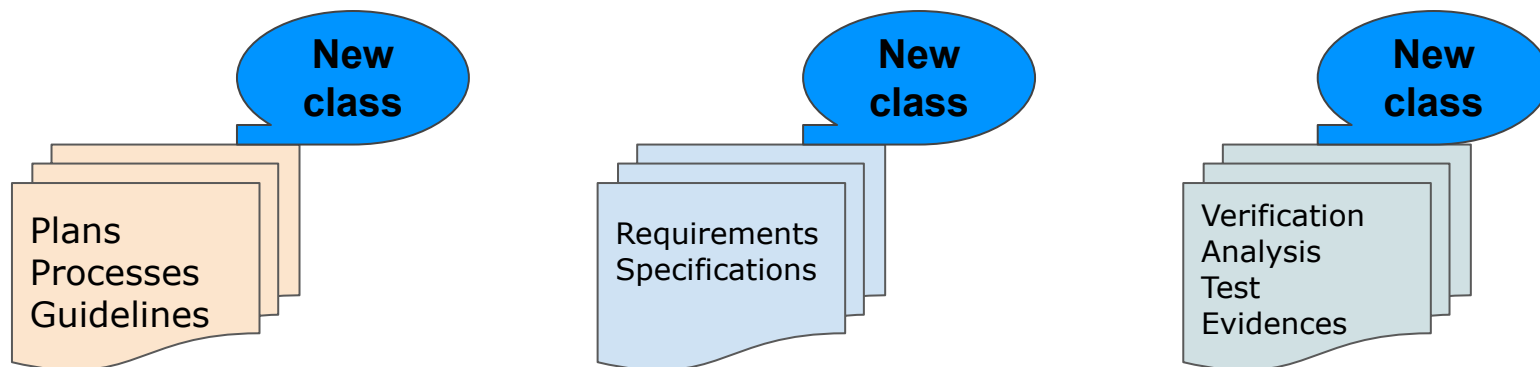


- Requirements Class
- Verification Class
- traceToDetail entry to Relationship Types to connect hierarchies of requirements
- Evidence Class & new Relationship Class for evidences

FuSa documentation structure

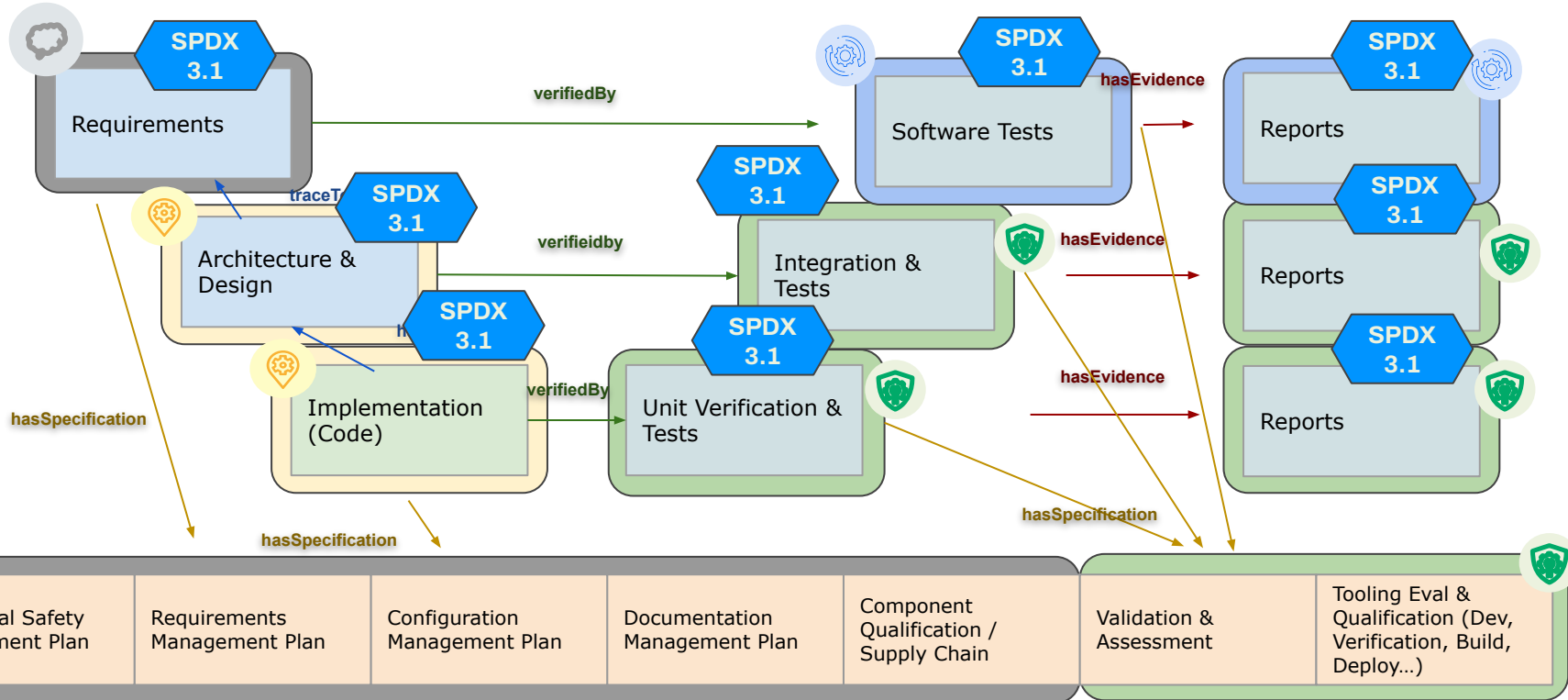
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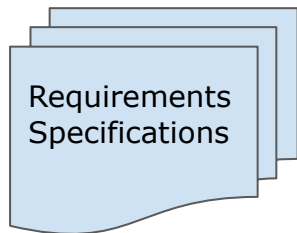
Dependencies in a FuSa Project

SPDX 3.1-rc1



Classes for WPs - REQUIREMENT

RC SPDX 3.1

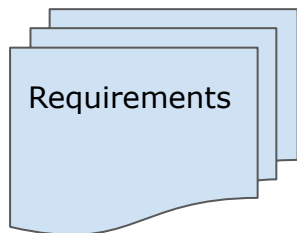


Determining factors and assumptions:

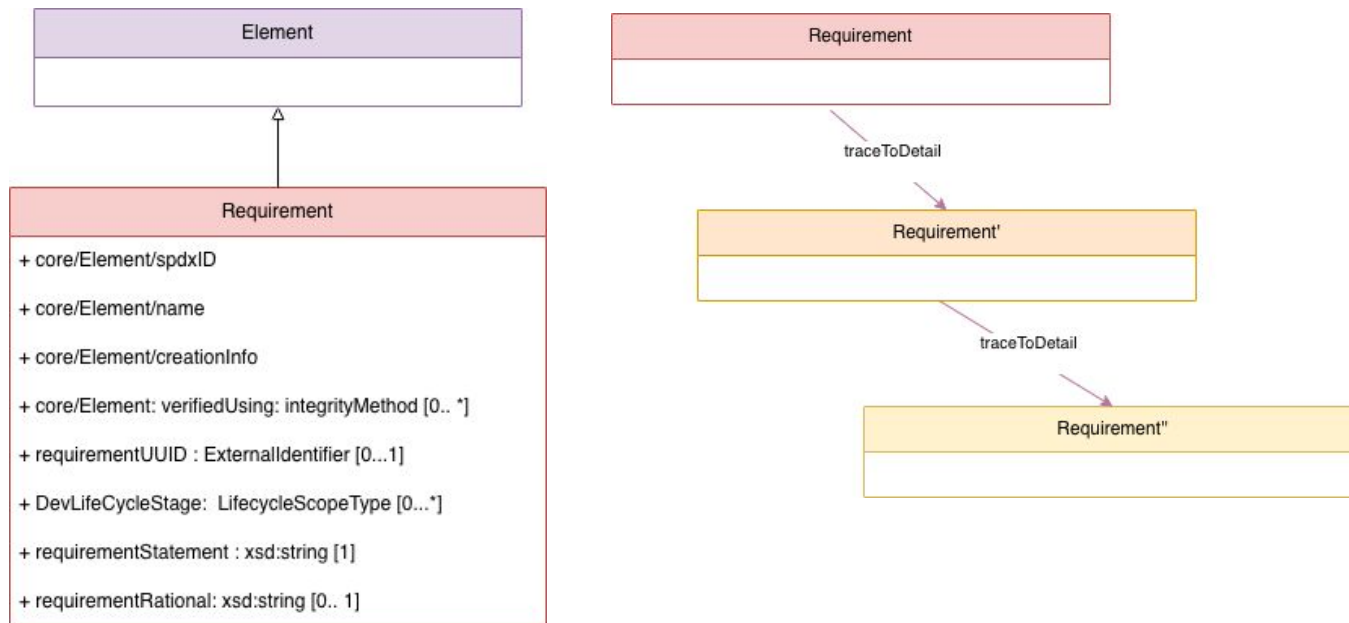
- A requirement describes a functional, non-functional or design need placed on an item (HW, SW, system, whatever can be the product)
- There are different sources of requirements
- Atomic REQUIREMENTS entities can be packaged to Requirement sets that then can become part of specifications ⇒ no new class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

Classes for WPs - REQUIREMENT

RC SPDX 3.1

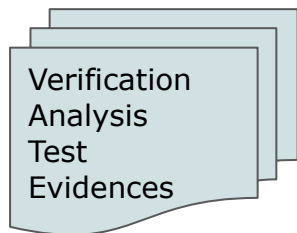


REQUIREMENT class



Classes for WPs - VERIFICATION

RC SPDX 3.1



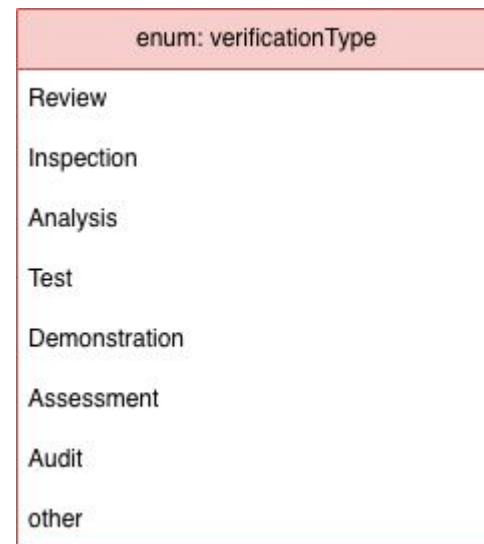
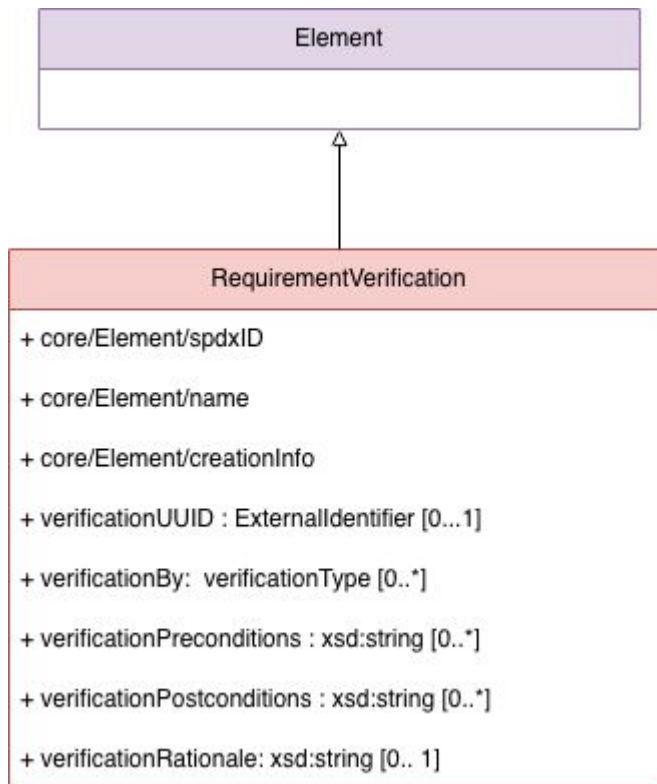
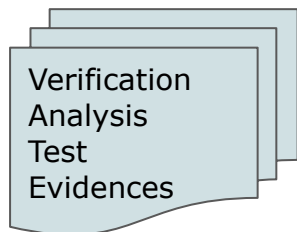
Determining factors and assumptions:

- 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

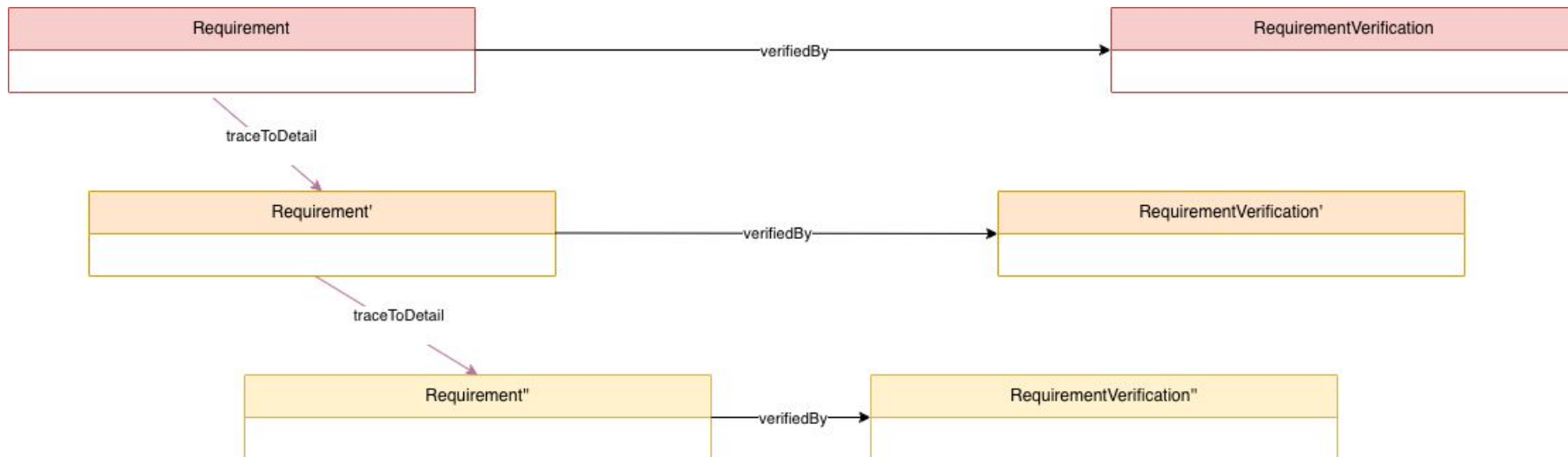
Classes for WPs - VERIFICATION

RC SPDX 3.1



Req and Ver - Relationships

RC SPDX 3.1



Classes for WPs - EVIDENCE

RC SPDX 3.1

A graphic of three overlapping light pink rectangular papers with rounded corners, stacked on top of each other.

Evidence
(test reports,
build logs,
etc.)

Determining factors and assumptions:

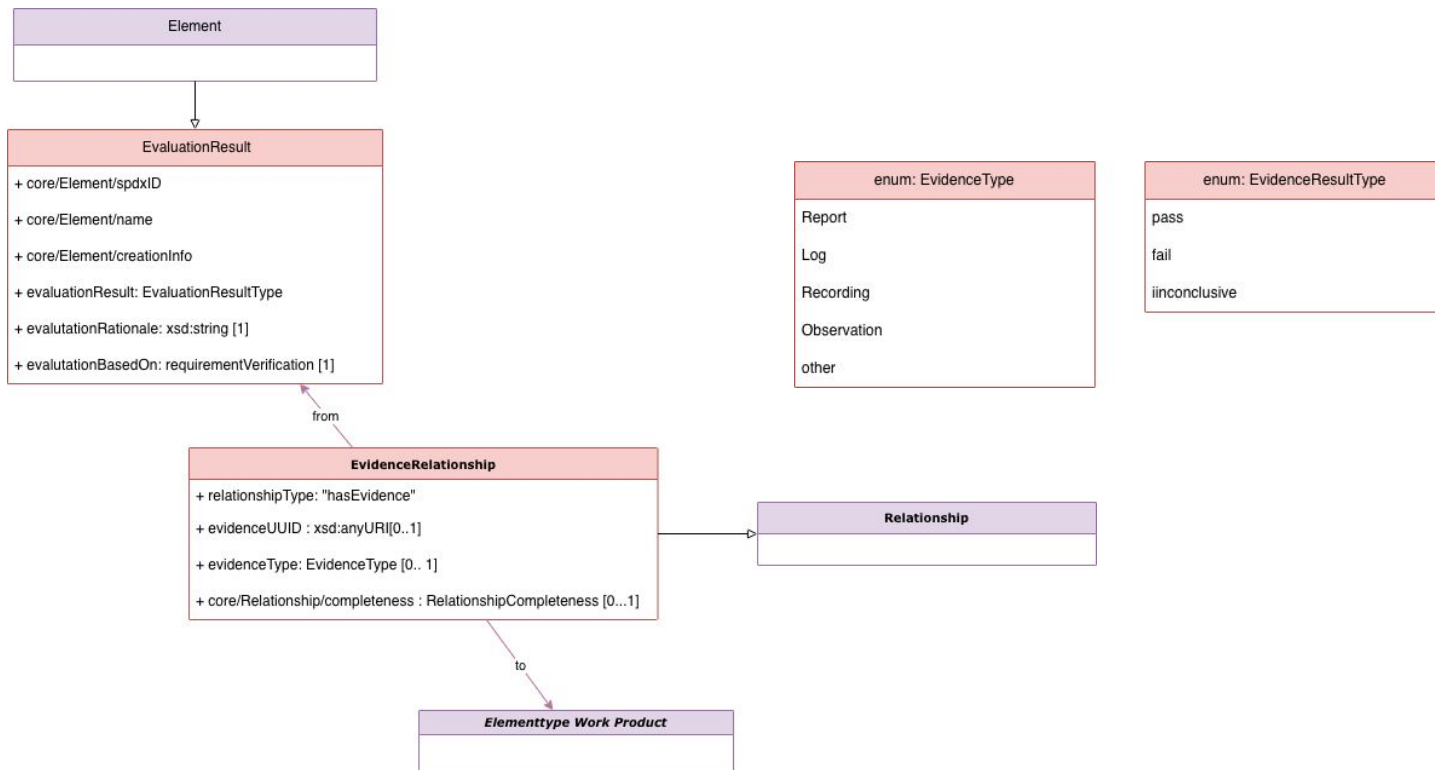
- EVIDENCES attest a certain level of compliance of
 - a tested item (code) with its acceptance criteria (requirement), using the test process and
 - For a specific pair of verification input, verification specification and verification results
- EVIDENCES are highly coupled with VERIFICATION

Classes for WPs - EVIDENCE

RC SPDX 3.1



Evidence
(test reports,
build logs,
etc.)

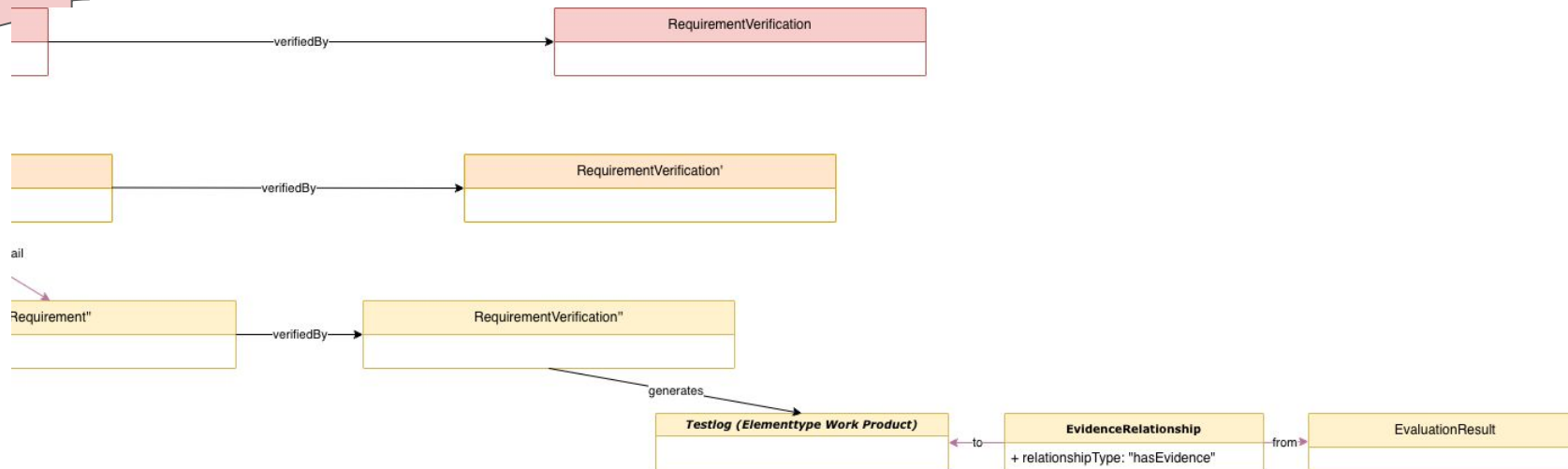


Classes for WPs - EVIDENCE

RC SPDX 3.1

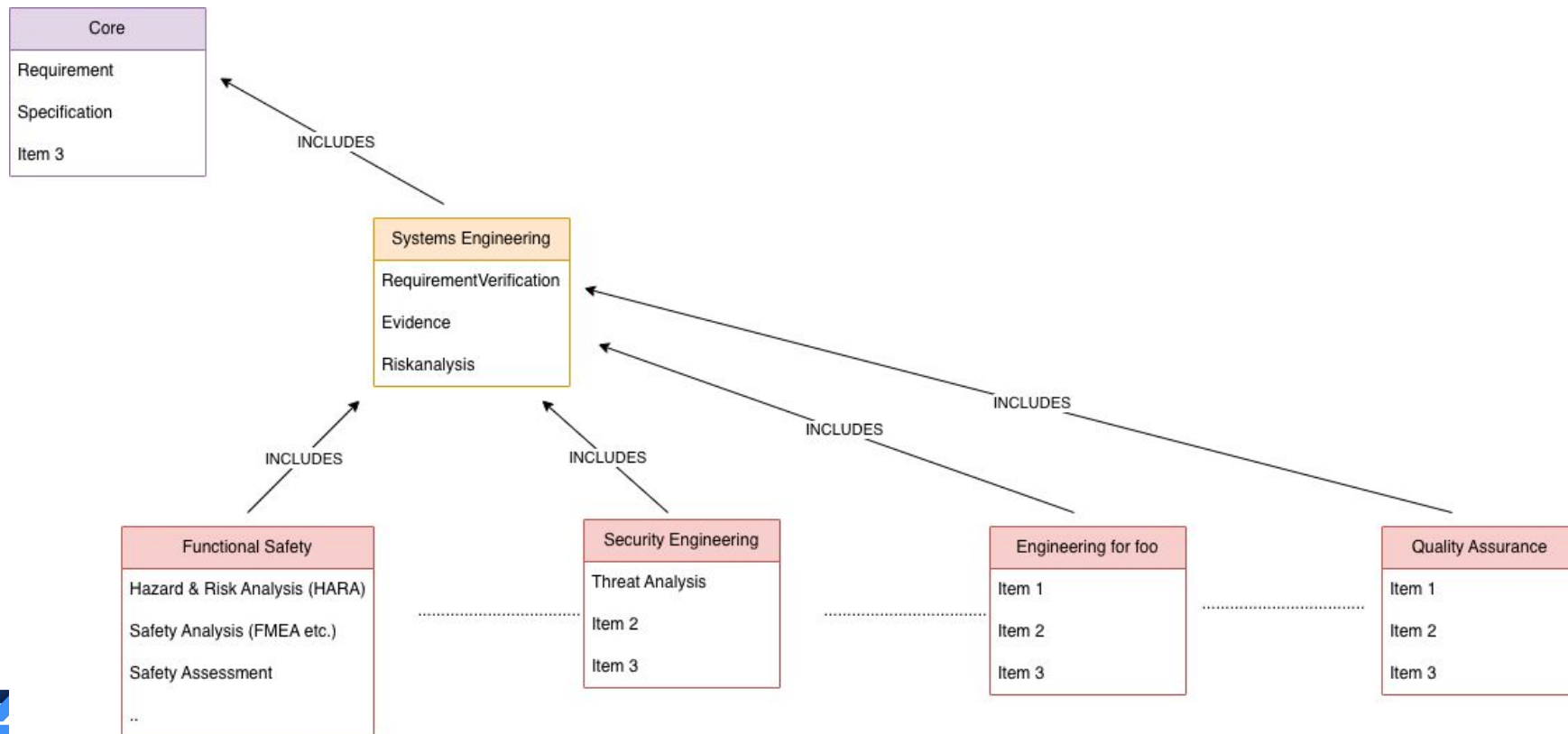


Evidence
(test reports,
build logs,
etc.)



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](#)

