

How Is IATF 16949:2016 Certification Improving the Automotive Ecosystem?

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Abstract. The development of the industry, marked by unprecedented competitiveness and evolution, challenges traditional management methods. Globalization does not leave the automotive sector indifferent, the latter being characterized by a high pace, increasingly rigorous normative, regulatory and customer requirements, strong competition and complex supply chains. Automotive suppliers are now adopting several approaches to improve their performance, achieve operational excellence and maintain their market position. Certification of quality management systems to the requirements of the international automotive standard IATF 16949 remains a major challenge facing automotive equipment manufacturers; it constitutes a competitive advantage and plays a major role in supplier selection. IATF-certified companies demonstrate mastery of their value chain and ensure the conformity of the products manufactured and services provided. This is the main reason why customers require IATF certification from their suppliers. In this context, this article aims to demonstrate to automotive companies the impact of certification according to the requirements of IATF 16949 on their performance and continuity. This study deeply explores the requirements of the standard and determines, using SWOT analysis, the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for improvement and threats of the standard to the automotive ecosystem.

Keywords: automotive ecosystem, certification, IATF 16949, normative requirements, quality management system.