



IATF Oversight

Certification Body Communiqué

Communiqué # 2009-003

DATE: February 2009

| | Yes | No |
|-------------------|-----|----|
| Confidential | | X |
| Mandatory content | X | |

SUBJECT: Surveillance Audit Requirement

It has come to the attention of some IATF Oversight Offices that a rumor is circulating that claims surveillance audits are no longer necessary if an organization has “internal, qualified ISO/TS auditors”. The rumor claims that so long as an organization has “internal, qualified ISO/TS auditors”, a tri-annual (every 3 years) 3rd party re-certification audit is the only requirement to maintain ISO/TS16949 certification.

The IATF position has not changed. The purpose of this communiqué is to reiterate the IATF requirement for regular surveillance audits, as defined within Rules 3rd edition 5.1.1. Conducted by an IATF-recognized certification body utilizing an IATF-licensed auditor and are mandated to maintain ISO/TS16949 certification. The regular surveillance audits may be at 6-month, 9-month or annual intervals established from the last day of the closing meeting of the initial Stage 2 or Recertification audit.

The IATF expects that all IATF-recognized certification bodies will advise their client organizations that failure to allow a regular surveillance audit, triggers the Rules 3rd edition 8.0 Certificate decertification process which could result in cancellation of the IATF certificate.

Please contact your relevant Oversight Office if your staff personnel or your auditors encounter this rumor in the course of their work. The IATF would appreciate being advised of the names of any individuals that may be circulating the rumour.