



July 12, 2010

Dear Valued Xilinx Customer,

The IATF (International Automotive Task Force) has given Xilinx notice that they will not allow Xilinx to renew our ISO/TS16949:2002 certification. Xilinx has been certified to ISO/TS16949 since March of 2005. Not only has Xilinx successfully completed five surveillance and re-certification audits, but the initial Xilinx certification was witnessed by an IATF representative from BMW.

The reason that Xilinx will not be allowed to renew its ISO/TS16949 certification is due to a new interpretation of an existing rule by certain members of the IATF in Europe. The rule in question is Rule #1 (Eligibility for Certification for ISO/TS16949:2002), and this reads:

“Only manufacturing sites where production and/or service parts are manufactured and supplied to customers subscribing to ISO/TS16949:2002 are eligible for certification...”

Xilinx has consistently demonstrated to independent auditors that our operations meet the definition of Rule #1. Some operations (including marking and other finishing operations) are completed ‘in-house’ by Xilinx. However, in this latest round, the IATF has ignored this fact and concluded that any supplier identified as a “fabless semiconductor” manufacturer does not qualify under this definition. In its opinion to our registrar, the VDA (Verband der Automobilindustrie – German Association of the Automotive Industry), a key member of the IATF, states:

“This organisation does not have manufacturing; it’s subcontracted to another organisation. If the subcontracted organisation is part of this organisation, we can audit the manufacturing subcontractor & Xilinx as a support function. To simplify the position which is also expressed in the Rules for IATF recognition as well is that an organization without its own manufacturing activities is not eligible for TS. What to be understood under “manufacturing” is written under 1.0 of the Rules. However as this question about the eligibility comes up more frequent, I asked my colleagues for their opinion as well. Could be that we will put it on the agenda for the upcoming IATF Meeting again to get a final confirmation or possibly a change of the eligibility for TS to have those clients certified as well.”

The current Xilinx ISO/TS16949:2002 certification expires on August 2, 2010, and, based on the above, Xilinx will not be able to re-certify.



This change in certification status is not due to any change made by Xilinx. We continue to be committed to meeting the requirements of ISO/TS16949 certification. Our commitment to quality and continuous improvement will not change due to this outcome, and we will continue to support AEC-Q100 qualification and PPAP documentation for all of our Xilinx Automotive (XA) devices. Xilinx is an industry-leader in implementing our Beyond AEC-Q100 qualification process which includes doubling the key AEC-Q100 durations and stresses required. In addition, Xilinx continues to partner with world-class ISO/TS16949 certified wafer fabrication and assembly suppliers.

Xilinx recognizes the importance of ISO/TS16949:2002 registration, the needs of our automotive customers, and the potential impact on our business due to the re-interpretation of this rule.

Therefore, despite the position of the IATF (VDA) with respect to our ISO/TS16949 certification, Xilinx remains a committed supplier in the automotive market, and, more specifically, to you as our valued customer.

Should this be an issue for your company as a Xilinx customer, please contact us as soon as possible. We encourage you to speak to your IATF representative to reinstate their original definition of Rule #1. Thank you very much for your understanding and support.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Elward', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jack Elward
Vice President of Quality
Xilinx Corporation

View prior certificates

- [Certificate ISO/TS 16969-2002 \(2005-2008\)](#)
- [Certificate ISO/TS 16969-2002 \(2007-2010\)](#)