

Privacy Notice for the Use of the IATF Database

1. Controller

German Association of the Automotive Industry e. V. (VDA)

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2. Data Protection Officer

Postal address:

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3. Purposes of Processing

For the purpose of supporting and maintaining the IATF 16949 certification scheme and enabling the ongoing oversight, monitoring, administration, and integrity of IATF-recognized certification activities and certification bodies (CBs) worldwide by the IATF Oversight Offices, as required under the applicable IATF Rules requirements and as per the Agreement between the CB and the Oversight Office, personal data are processed in the software system "IATF Database" (IATF DB).

In particular, personal data is processed for the following purposes:

a) Administration and Operation of the IATF Database

- Managing user accounts, authentication, access rights, and role-based permissions
- Maintaining records relating to IATF-certified organizations, certification bodies, auditors, and other authorized users
- Creating, storing, updating, managing, and monitoring certification-related information, including certificate status, validity, withdrawals, transfers, letters of conformance, waiver requests
- Providing a global platform for verification of certification information and certificate validity
- Generating reports, statistics, analyses, key performance indicators (KPIs), and other management information related to certifications, audits, certification bodies, auditors, and certification scheme activities
- Synchronizing and exchanging information within the IATF structure, including Oversight Offices and related IATF systems and applications

b) Audit, Assessment, Certification, and Oversight Activities

- Planning, conducting, documenting, monitoring, and managing certification audits, witness audits, office assessments, and other oversight activities
- Recording and storing audit reports or parts of it, findings, nonconformities, corrective actions, appeals, waiver requests, and related certification records
- Assigning auditors and other qualified personnel to audits and assessment activities
- Supporting the ongoing monitoring of IATF-recognized certification bodies in accordance with applicable IATF Rules and oversight requirements
- Managing certification decisions and the issuance and storing, maintenance, suspension, withdrawal, and transfer of certificates

c) Auditor Qualification and Competence Management

- Registering and maintaining auditor profiles
- Recording qualification, certification, competency, training, and sponsorship information
- Monitoring auditor activities, performance-related records, witnessed audits, and certification status
- Supporting the qualification, development, and continual oversight of auditors participating in the IATF certification scheme

d) Complaint, Waiver, and Process Management

- Managing performance complaints related to IATF-certified organizations
- Supporting standardized workflows for complaint investigation, review, decision-making, communication, and follow-up actions
- Managing waiver requests, transfer requests, and other certification-scheme processes requiring review and approval within the IATF framework

e) Communication, Support, and System Maintenance

- Responding to inquiries relating to certified organizations, certificates, audits, auditors, and other data maintained within the IATF Database
- Providing technical support, account administration, password management, and user assistance
- Operating, maintaining, securing, troubleshooting, enhancing, and further developing the IATF Database and related interfaces and services
- Monitoring system usage, ensuring information security, maintaining audit trails, and protecting the integrity and availability of the system

Legal Bases:

The processing is based on the following legal bases:

- Art. 6(1)(b) GDPR (performance of a contract)
- Art. 6(1)(f) GDPR (legitimate interest in integrity of the IATF certification scheme, quality assurance and compliance)

4. Categories of Personal Data

We process personal data and information within the following categories:

- Identification data: Name, contact information (email address, phone number), company affiliation, certification body employer, languages, qualification
- Certification data: auditor certificate number, auditor certificate validity, auditor and certificate status, audit reports, waiver requests
- Audit data: type and scope of audits, audit dates, audit site contact name, information regarding the “witnessed” status of audits and auditors, audit results, including data on nonconformities
- Digital identifiers: IP address, IATF DB logfiles, password/authentication data
- Communication data: email correspondence, support requests

5. Cookies and Similar Technologies

The platform uses only technically necessary cookies for session management and efficient user authentication. In addition, where the auto-save function is enabled by the user, further information is stored in the user’s browser to protect the user against the loss of unsaved work.

No tracking for marketing purposes is carried out.

Cookies are used for device authentication. Any data collected is used solely for security or diagnostic purposes.

6. Recipients of the Data

Recipients of personal data may include:

- IATF ASIBL (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif)
- IATF Oversight Office
- IATF-recognized certification body
- IATF Auditor (Witness Auditor, Office Assessor)
- IATF-certified clients
- Internal departments within the VDA
- IATF Database software provider
- Data hosting and IT service provider

A complete list of categories of processors is available upon request.

7. Data Transfer to Third Countries

Personal data may also be transferred within the IATF structure to recipients located outside the European Economic Area. Where data is transferred to countries for which an adequacy decision by the European Commission exists, such transfer is based on that adequacy decision. Where personal data is transferred to recipients in third countries for which no adequacy decision exists, the transfer is based on appropriate safeguards pursuant to Art. 46 GDPR, in particular the standard contractual clauses adopted by the European Commission. Where required, additional safeguards are implemented). Further information regarding the applicable safeguards for international data transfers may be obtained upon request.

8. Retention Period

Personal data are retained only for as long as necessary for the purposes of processing, and when no other legal bases, in particular statutory or contractual retention periods, apply. Detailed retention periods are defined and reviewed regularly.

9. Data Security

We implement comprehensive technical and organizational measures (TOMs), including:

- Encryption of systems and assets
- Encrypted data transmission (TLS)
- Two-factor authentication (2FA)
- Access controls and role management
- Access controls based on organizational affiliation
- Regular security reviews
- System-based logging and documentation of changes
- Separation of development and production environments

10. Rights of Data Subjects

You have the following data subject rights:

- Right of access (Art. 15 GDPR)
- Right to rectification (Art. 16 GDPR)
- Right to erasure (Art. 17 GDPR)
- Right to restriction of processing (Art. 18 GDPR)
- Right to data portability (Art. 20 GDPR)
- Right to object (Art. 21 GDPR)

To exercise your rights, please contact: datenschutz@vda.de

11. Right to Lodge a Complaint

You have the right to lodge a complaint with a data protection supervisory authority, for example with the Berliner Beauftragten für Datenschutz und Informationsfreiheit.

12. Automated Decision-Making

No automated decision-making or profiling takes place in the IATF Database.