

CONTENTS

1.	PROSPECT & INQUIRY	2
2.	OFFER.....	2
3.	CERTIFICATION	3
4.	CERTIFICATE AWARD	3

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be happy to help you.

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Certification process according to the Catena-X Conformity Assessment Framework

The review process for Catena-X certification objects according to the Catena-X Conformity Assessment Framework (consisting of the checklist and handbook), referred to as CX-CAF, essentially comprises the following phases:

- Prospect & Inquiry
- Offer
- Certification
- Certificate Award

The implementation is carried out by TÜV NORD CERT Prüf- und Umweltgutachtergesellschaft mbH on behalf of TÜV NORD CERT GmbH in its function as Conformity Assessment Body (CAB), as designated by Catena-X Automotive Network e.V., abbreviated to Catena-X.

The course of the certification process is essentially identical for certification and recertification.

1. PROSPECT & INQUIRY

Certification requests are processed by direct contact of the certification applicants with TÜV NORD CERT GmbH. The certification object is presented by the certification applicant. Questions and organizational points (whether the audit will take place remotely or on-site, scheduling, data to be prepared, etc.) regarding the certification process will be clarified in a pre-audit meeting. The certification applicant must ensure that – if mandatory – TISAX certification is available at the level required by the CX-CAF. In addition, the possession of other certifications such as ISO 9001 or ISO 27001 may be required.

2. OFFER

The CAB prepares an individual contract offer for the certification applicant in accordance with the specifications of the Catena-X framework. After the contract has been concluded, the applicant receives a list of the essential requirements for certification from TÜV NORD CERT GmbH (CAB).

This includes, but is not limited to, the subject of the audit, the history of existing certificates, the validity periods of evidence already submitted (z.B. ISO 9001, 14001), a self-disclosure questionnaire on the implementation of the requirements, including the scope of certification, the conformity assessment criteria (CAC), information provided by the applicant and the declaration of completeness and accuracy.

For this purpose, the overview of the software solution (e.g. short description), Catena-X certification standards and the requirements of the individual standards must be prepared.

The CAB will provide the applicant with examples to check the Conformity Assessment Criteria CAC.

3. CERTIFICATION

During the audit, the auditor follows the defined certification plan and reviews the evidence according to the procedures described in the CX-CAF.

This includes, among other things, the implementation of the certification or recertification in accordance with the specifications of the Catena-X Framework, the plausibility check of the evidence in accordance with the specifications of the Catena-X Conformity Assessment Framework CX-CAF and the preparation of an audit opinion as well as forwarding and disclosure to Catena-X

After collecting the evidence, the auditor evaluates and documents whether it is complete, correct, and transparent, and checks any deviations from the defined criteria. Deviation management services are not included in the initial offer and will be charged separately.

After a successful audit, the auditor prepares the certification report and opinion, which serves as documented proof of the certification process. The auditor documents all certification activities carried out (e.g. sampling, recalculation, sampling techniques, analytical procedures); this documentation will be archived for at least 10 years.

4. CERTIFICATE AWARD

Once the review process is complete, the certification report is released. If the audit is successful, a certificate will be issued and awarded in the name of Catena-X in accordance with the requirements of the Conformity Assessment Framework Handbook. The validity of the certificate is based on the regulations of Catena-X. The certificate remains valid until the go-live of the next release.

To ensure a smooth software update taking into account the changes in the new release, a one-year extension period – the so-called "Maintenance Phase" – will be granted, during which additional support will be provided for another year.

If certification is not successful, no certificate will be issued; however, a new application is possible as soon as all deviations have been corrected and the process can be resumed. If this is requested by Catena-X Automotive Network e.V. or a natural or legal person duly designated by it, TÜV NORD CERT will revoke the certificate on their behalf.