Information Security in the Automotive Industry

Universal recognition through mutual acceptance of joint assessments and exchange

So far, information security in the automotive industry has been strongly influenced by individual approaches - that is about to change. Service providers and suppliers must regularly prove to their customers that they meet the high security requirements for data provided. So far, such assessments have been carried out mainly by the manufacturers themselves, which in the past repeatedly led to unnecessary multiplication. With TISAX (Trusted Information Security Assessment Exchange), there will be a joint assessment and exchange procedure in the future.

Why TISAX?

Are you a supplier or service provider for the automotive industry? If so, you need only one thing to assure customers that you are keeping their information secure – participation in the TISAX Exchange. All it takes is one assessment every 3 years.

Imagine your partners. They have confidential information they need to share with their supplier – you. The cooperation between you and your partners creates value. The information your partners share with you is an important part of this value creation. Thus, they need to protect it appropriately. And they want to be sure that you are handling this information with the same due care. But how can they be sure that this information is in good hands? They can't just “believe” you. Your partner needs to see some proof.

The participants in TISAX share information via a common online platform on the information security status of another participant, in the form of the results of assessments performed. Important to know: not every TISAX participant automatically has access to the assessment results of another participant. Who receives which information in the TISAX network is something the audited company itself decides by explicit release from case to case.

The advantages of TISAX

- Cross-company recognition of the assessment results among all TISAX participants
- Greater confidence in certified service providers and suppliers
- Avoids the need for multiple checks
- Fewer misunderstandings due to the harmonized VDA-ISA test catalog
- Mutual recognition in the TISAX network saves time and cost
- Only one TISAX assessment every three years

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Becoming a Participant - Exchanging Information

Access to TISAX is via a subscriber registration, which takes place online on the TISAX portal. Registration is the prerequisite for being able to select a TISAX accredited audit service provider. Registered participants will receive a list of accredited providers from which they can freely choose. An organization may also register several locations and have a group assessment carried out. After an assessment based on VDA-ISA, information can be provided or obtained in TISAX.

Conducting a TISAX assessment by DQS as TISAX Accredited Audit Provider (XAP)

1. **Definition of Scope**
   - Customer submits scope and assessment level, e.g. with or without prototype protection.

2. **Online registration as a TISAX participant**
   - Online registration as TISAX participant at www.enx.com/tisax, followed by registrations of the scope ID by ENX (annual service fee).

3. **Assessment is conducted in two steps**
   - Selection of an authorized audit service provider, then kick-off, document review (self-assessment, not on-site) and subsequent assessment (level 2: off-site, level 3: on-site)

4. **Interim report and corrective actions, if appl.**
   - The interim report is discussed; in case of non-conformities, corrective actions are agreed upon for implementation.

5. **Closure of non-conformities**
   - If necessary, implementation of actions in the agreed time period. Once the non-conformities are closed, an effectiveness check will be carried out by means of an assessment.

6. **Uploading the final report**
   - The final report will be posted on the TISAX online platform. That done, the participant is listed with their TISAX Labels.

Who is behind TISAX?

TISAX uses the ISA questionnaire compiled by the German Automotive Industry Association VDA based on essential aspects of ISO / IEC 27001. Recently, the VDA developed this into a common assessment and exchange procedure called TISAX, which is operated by ENX, an association of European car manufacturers, suppliers and associations.

ENX monitors adherence to the TISAX procedure, which includes general requirements for audit service providers and specific requirements for ENX TISAX audit service providers, and safeguards the quality of implementation and assessment results. To this end, ENX concludes contracts with all authorized audit service providers as well as with the participants. Standardization and quality control will ensure common recognition of test results among all TISAX participants.