International Railway Industry Standard (IRIS)
The Quality Standard for the Railway Industry
The liberalization and globalization of the railway industry is gathering momentum, and along with it comes increased competitive pressure. This poses major challenges but also opportunities, and not only for the operators of railway networks. Rail vehicle manufacturers and suppliers need to meet the rising requirements that an increasingly global design and production environment places upon the quality of rolling stock.

**IRIS – for a maximum in quality**

The International Railway Industry Standard (IRIS) is the international sector specific standard for the railway industry, designed to improve modern, process-controlled and effective business processes. The standard aims to provide more quality and safety while at the same time lowering costs and complexity. Major rail vehicle manufacturers usually require a management system certified to IRIS.

IRIS is based on the internationally recognized quality management standard ISO 9001, supplemented by the specific requirements of the railway sector. With a focus on continuous improvement and sustained corporate success, Revision 02 of the standard now integrates the maturity approach of ISO 9004. Developers, manufacturers and maintenance organizations active in the railway sector now have the option of registering their IRIS certification in the web-based supplier database of UNIFE* at www.iris-rail.org.

**UNIFE – quality brought on track**

The objective of UNIFE is to use IRIS to create a win-win situation for all stakeholders – rail system operators, rail vehicle manufacturers and suppliers. The system is based on four principles:

- Assessment according to the uniform sector standard IRIS
- Improved quality along the entire rail industry supply chain
- Objective evaluations by independent certification bodies authorized by UNIFE
- Transparent and reliable information via the UNIFE supplier database

* Union des Industries Ferroviaires Européennes – www.unife.com
**DQS – certification partner for complex systems**

For more than 20 years already, DQS has been assessing and certifying companies in the railway vehicle industry. In December 2005, DQS was one of the first certification bodies to receive authorization for IRIS by UNIFE; and in April 2006, DQS issued the first ever IRIS certificate in the world. Customers particularly appreciate the high level of technical expertise of DQS auditors in respect of integrated management systems, which in addition to quality management requirements also include environmental protection and occupational health and safety, such as ISO 14001, BS OHSAS 18001, or ISO/TS 16949.

**Your way to a DQS certificate**

- Preparation of an individual offer / order confirmation
- Pre-assessment (optional)
- System analysis (Stage 1 Audit) using the IRIS Audit Tool
- System assessment (Stage 2 Audit) and IRIS scoring
- Certification and notification to UNIFE
- Registration of results in the UNIFE Supplier Database
- 1st Advancement Assessment
- 2nd Advancement Assessment
- Re-assessment

**Our experience – your benefit**

The assessment of a management system by an independent certification body provides many advantages above and beyond the declaration of conformity itself. Our auditors point out opportunities and risks, identify potential for improvement, provide guidance for decision-making processes; all of it aimed at the improvement of overall performance.

- Authorizations and accreditations for all relevant standards worldwide demonstrate competence and customer orientation
- Active collaboration of DQS in the further development of IRIS within the UNIFE Working Group
- Railway experienced auditors with a high level of technical and management skills
- Long-term customer relationships in the railway industry
- International availability
- Founding member of IQNet, the worldwide network of First Class certification bodies.

“The International Railway Industry Standard has become an essential quality tool for the railway vehicle industry. As one of the leading certification bodies in this sector, DQS played a decisive role in its development, along with UNIFE. The first IRIS certificate worldwide, issued by DQS to the Harting Group in 2006, was an important milestone for both companies.”

Hans Jahn, Product Manager Rail & Transportation and DQS Lead Auditor
Core elements of an IRIS certification

Certifications to IRIS are based on the requirements of ISO 9001, supplemented by considerations specific to the rail vehicle industry such as:

- Technical safety policy of the product portfolio
- Project management, order, and series production management
- RAMS: Reliability, Availability, Maintainability, Safety
- LCC: Life Cycle Cost
- Tender management
- Obsolescence management
- Configuration management
- FAI: First Article Inspection

A scoring system for the continual improvement process

Audit results are recorded using a specific IRIS Audit Tool and evaluated according to a scoring system that is based upon the IRIS questionnaire. This evaluation model on the basis of ISO 9004 allows for the audited organization’s continual improvement process to be reflected. Results are entered into the UNIFE supplier database, where they are made available to the decision makers at operators and system integrators.

www.iris-rail.org
All over the world, DQS certificates stand for customer proximity and sustained value generation – more than 20,000 companies choose to rely on us.
IRIS – one standard, many advantages

- Evidence of certification required by the major rail vehicle manufacturers (Alstom, AnsaldoBreda, Bombardier, Siemens)
- Standardized industry requirements lead to process and quality improvements
- Registration in the UNIFE database, which is used by operators and manufacturers for their supplier selection
- Internationally recognized DQS certificate with high market recognition
- Synergy effects from integrated assessments to ISO 9001 and IRIS
- Further development of the corporate management system on the basis of ISO 9004
- Guaranteed competitiveness in the rail vehicle industry
- Registration in the Internet-based DQS customer database