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1 Introduction

Automotive products that are developed in accordance to the AUTOSAR standard have to be tested against the AUTOSAR specifications using the AUTOSAR Conformance Test specifications in order to obtain a reliable attestation of conformance.

Within the AUTOSAR context so-called Conformance Test Agencies (CTA) are involved in the AUTOSAR Conformance Test Process for specific tasks. In this sense, a CTA is partnering with the AUTOSAR community in order to secure the quality and reliability of Conformance Testing.

For the appropriate selection of test cases and impartial judgment of test results, the Conformance Test Process can involve a third party, which is referred to as a third party CTA. The main tasks are the independent attestation of product conformance to the AUTOSAR standard and a provision of the Conformance Test Suite (CTS).

There is no limitation to the number of CTAs that may achieve accreditation. Accreditation of more than a single third party CTA ensures higher coverage of technology areas and geography.

As an alternative the accredited organization can also be a first party i.e. a supplier of an AUTOSAR product, testing the conformance its own product, which is referred to as a first party CTA. In that case the AUTOSAR conformance testing processes at the premises of the Product Supplier (PS) are the main focus of the assessment.

The purpose of this document is to describe the procedures and associated criteria by which such organizations, either a first or third Party CTA is assessed. This is referred to as the accreditation process.

The business relationship between a third party CTA and PS is not subject of this document.

This document will not describe the conformance test process itself which is detailed in a separate document 0

1.1 Related Documentation

1.1.1 Input documents

[1] Conformance Test Process Definition Path A-C

https://svn2.autosar.org/repos2/22_Releases

AUTOSAR_DS_CT Path A-C.pdf

[2] Conformance Test Process Definition Path D

https://svn2.autosar.org/repos2/22_Releases

AUTOSAR_DS_CT Path D.pdf

- [3] Requirements for CTA Accreditation Bodies
https://svn2.autosar.org/repos2/22_Releases
AUTOSAR_DS_AccreditationBodyRequirements.pdf
- [4] AUTOSAR Glossary
https://svn2.autosar.org/repos2/22_Releases
AUTOSAR_Glossary.pdf
- [5] AUTOSAR CTA Accreditation - application Rule for ISO/IEC 17025
https://svn2.autosar.org/repos2/22_Releases
AUTOSAR_DS_Accreditation - application of ISO 17025.pdf
- [6] AUTOSAR CTA Accreditation - application Rule for ISO/IEC GUIDE 65
https://svn2.autosar.org/repos2/22_Releases
AUTOSAR_DS_Accreditation - application of ISO Guide 65.pdf
- [7] Definition of Release Management Process
https://svn2.autosar.org/repos2/22_Releases
AUTOSAR_DS_ReleaseManagementProcess.pdf

1.1.2 Related standards and norms

- [8] ISO/IEC 17000:2004 Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles
- [9] ISO/IEC 17025:2005 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories
- [10] ISO/IEC GUIDE 65:1996 General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems

1.2 Terminology

The basis for conformance terminology used is ISO/IEC 17000:2004 [8]. For the purpose of this document, the following terms will be used with the specific meaning as set out:

Accreditation

Third-party attestation to an organization conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out AUTOSAR conformance test tasks

Assessment

Activity conducted by an assessor to demonstrate that the assessed organization fulfills the set requirements

Surveillance

Systematic iteration of an assessment as a basis for maintaining the validity of the latter

Attestation

Issue of a statement, based on a decision following review, that fulfillment of specified requirements has been demonstrated

Declaration

First-party attestation

First-party

An organization that provides automotive products, which are subject to AUTOSAR conformance testing

Third-party

An organization that is independent of the organization that provides automotive products, which are subject to AUTOSAR conformance testing

Note: for the avoidance of confusion the term 'conformity' (which is synonymous to 'conformance') is not used in conjunction with the accreditation process.

Accredited party

Within this document the accredited party can be a third party CTA performing third party attestation and/or a first party CTA (Product Supplier) performing first party declaration of product conformance.

Conformance Test Agency

This is an organization performing a role with specific tasks in the conformance test process. Two possibilities are distinguished, a third party CTA or a first party CTA (which is also a product supplier).

Accreditation Body

This is an organization, which employs or contracts individual assessors, who in turn perform the independent assessments as part of the accreditation process.

For details please see also the AUTOSAR Glossary [4].

2 Overview

2.1 The context of accreditation within AUTOSAR

As the owner of the standard, the AUTOSAR partnership seeks to secure the capability of an accredited party.

AUTOSAR will support any candidate who is interested in becoming an accredited party with relevant information and application material.

The acceptance as an accredited party will be based on an impartial assessment of the candidate leading to the accreditation status. These assessments will be conducted by an independent assessor and be repeated in reasonable intervals.

The following figure shows an overview on the existing Conformance Test Bodies which are subject for accreditation.

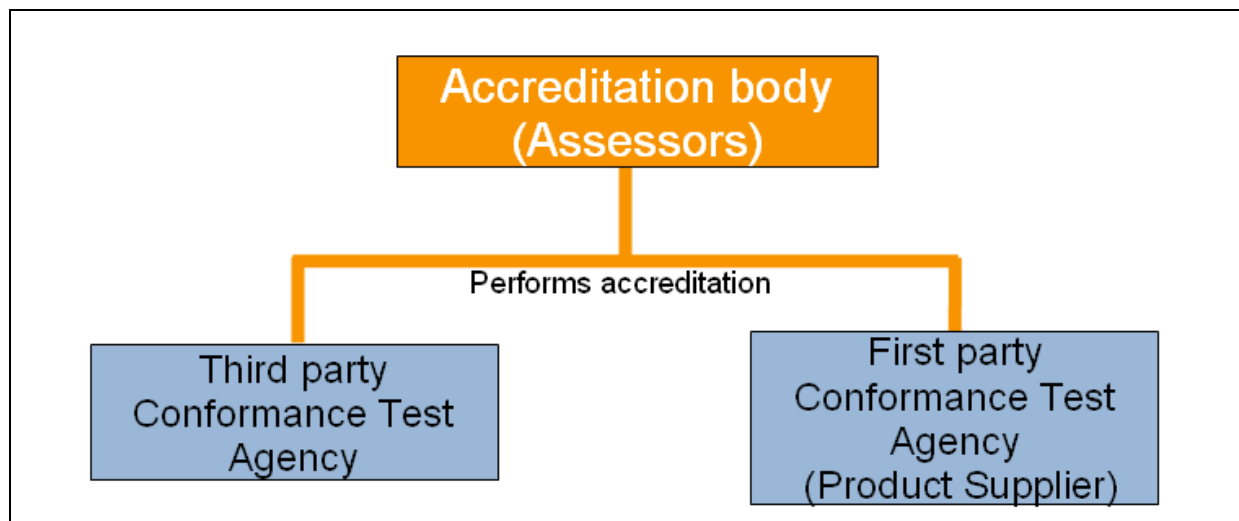


Figure 1: Overview on AUTOSAR Conformance Test Bodies

A CTA candidate will have to execute an AUTOSAR partner-/membership agreement latest at the time of accreditation. The CTA accreditation which is finalized by signing the CTA agreement is valid across the organization according to the scope of the signed AUTOSAR partnership/membership agreement.

Additionally the CTA has to provide on request a formal declaration stating that any AUTOSAR conformance test tasks done within the overall CTA organization adheres to the processes presented during the accreditation.

2.1.1 Third Party Conformance Test Agency

The third party CTA provides a CTS and/or third party attestation of product conformance.

2.1.2 First Party Conformance Test Agency

The first party CTA is the operation as part of the Product Supplier (PS) organization. The main focus of the tasks performed is the check of product conformance against the AUTOSAR standard while performing the relevant set of executable test cases against the product under test. These tasks can be performed in connection to the product development process, which might in turn be performed in different departments or even locations of the PS.

Remark:

The detailed roles of the third and first party CTA within the conformance test context is described in the Conformance Test Process document [2].

2.2 Initial accreditation

As preparation for the accreditation the candidate is asked to perform a self-assessment based on the information provided by AUTOSAR. Following this, an independent assessment will be performed. After passing successfully this independent assessment, the candidate is officially accredited.

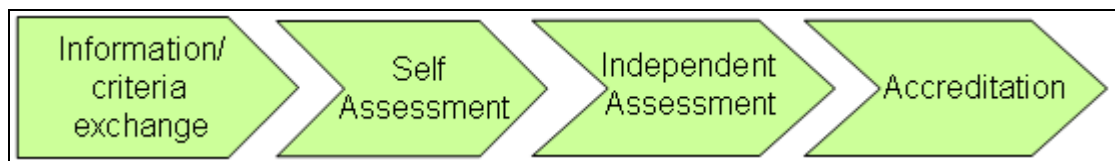


Figure 2: Accreditation process overview

2.3 Surveillances and assessments

In order to secure high quality level of conformance testing with regard to the tasks of the accredited party, (full-set) assessments and (reduced set) surveillances are scheduled.

After initial accreditation the next assessment will be performed after 5 years. Surveillances are conducted every two years.

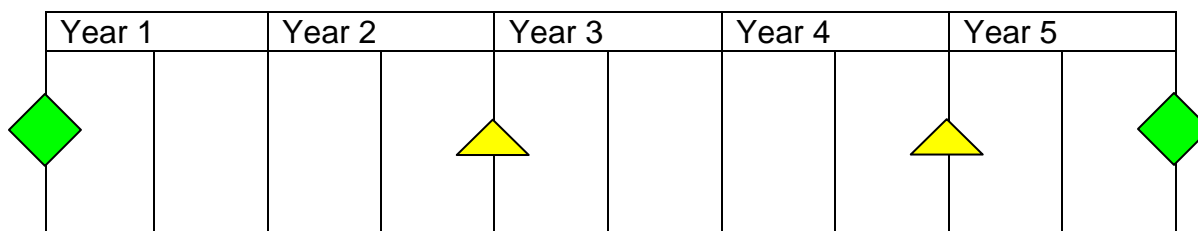


Figure 3: Assessment and surveillance timeframe

Legend: ◆ Assessment ▲ Surveillance

3 Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 CTA Candidate

The CTA candidate is the initiator of the process. It is required to give comprehensive information, based on the information package as described in chapter 4.1, to AUTOSAR. All information is treated as confidential by AUTOSAR.

3.2 AUTOSAR Administration

The AUTOSAR Administration is the defined entry point (one-face-to-the-customer) for the CTA candidate. It shall take care of all documents and information that are needed during the process execution.

Remark: Information on upcoming releases etc. is handled within the AUTOSAR Release Management Process [7].

3.3 AUTOSAR Management Board

The AUTOSAR Management Board is the AUTOSAR institution for getting information on the accreditation process execution:

- Info on CTA candidate inquiry
- Info on assessment results

The AUTOSAR Management Board does not take part in any kind of decision within the accreditation process and normally will not have direct contact to the CTA candidate.

3.4 Accreditation Body

The assessment itself needs to be performed by an independent party. This is the responsibility of the Accreditation Body [3], which nominates the respective assessor. The assessor shall visit the CTA candidate on site and perform the assessment together with the CTA candidate. Main target of the on-site assessment is to get a depth impression of the existing organization, the installed processes and the capability to perform the conformance testing tasks.

The assessor will be employed or contracted by an Accreditation Body[3], whose competence to perform accreditations is secured through clear requirements that such body must satisfy. This process is detailed in the AUTOSAR Accreditation Body Requirements document. As a consequence, the assessor will be competent to evaluate the CTA candidate against the defined assessment criteria as set out in the corresponding documents AUTOSAR Application Rule for ISO/IEC 17025 [5] and AUTOSAR Application Rule for ISO/IEC Guide 65 [6].

4 Accreditation process

The Accreditation Process is mandatory in order to perform the role of

- a third Party CTA
- or
- a first Party CTA

According to the specific role (first or third party) the detailed content of the assessment (which is the main step of the accreditation process) differs to some extent (see Chapter 5). The process of accreditation as such is, however, the same.

The following figure shows the process steps which are described in detail within the following section.

The accreditation process is designed in such a way that it should be possible to complete the process within three months from initial inquiry.

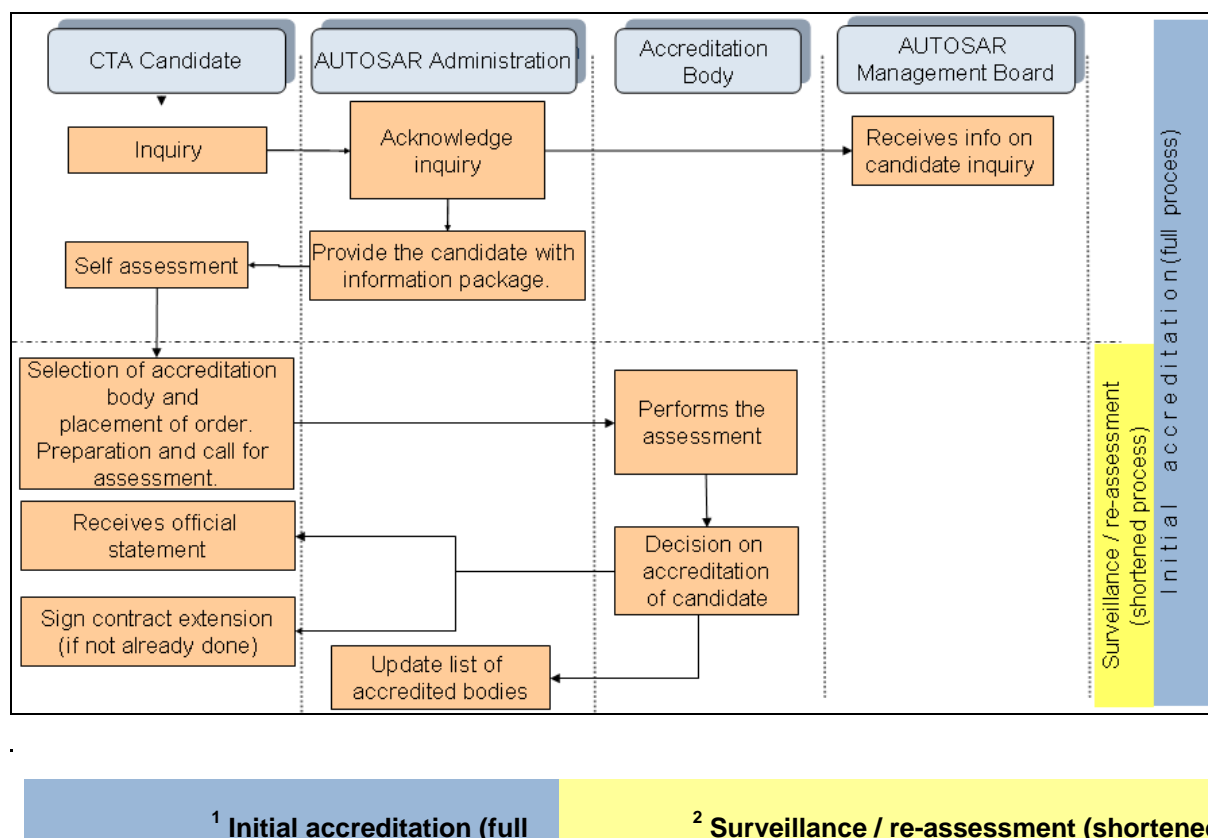


Figure 4: Detailed accreditation process overview

As indicated by the figure above the overall accreditation process can be divided into two main parts.

1. Once-only entry procedure (initial accreditation, assessment)
2. Independent (re-) assessment/surveillance

These two parts are separately defined in the following sections.

4.1 Entry procedure

▪ Inquiry for information

The CTA candidate interested in becoming a third or first party CTA contacts the AUTOSAR Administration in order to get first information.

In case that an insufficient number of CTA candidates are interested in becoming a CTA, the AUTOSAR organization will proactively contact potential prospects. This 'insufficient number' refers to appropriate coverage of at least one of the following aspects:

- CTS available for all AUTOSAR modules / module clusters
- Worldwide availability of CTAs

Prior to further steps in the Accreditation process the AUTOSAR Administration checks and confirms that the CTA candidate is an AUTOSAR member.

▪ Provide the CTA candidate with information package

Any potential CTA candidate stating interest in becoming a CTA is provided with an information package. This package is intended to enable the CTA candidate to get a clear picture of the AUTOSAR standard itself, expectations of the AUTOSAR organization towards accreditation/conformance test topics and to give instructions and help for the next steps of the accreditation process. The Information package contains:

- Conformance Test Agency Accreditation process definition (for information only)
- Self positioning sheet (see annex B) and other documents necessary for the preparation of the assessment
- Conformance-Test process definition (for information only)

Note: Other information, such as the Conformance Test specifications and the list of current CTAs is accessible for all AUTOSAR members anyway.

▪ Study of material and self-assessment by CTA candidate

On response to an initial inquiry the CTA candidate is asked to familiarize with the information material provided by AUTOSAR, in particular with the conformance test process and the technical basics of the conformance test specifications.

The CTA candidate is asked to internally prepare a general company presentation including a positioning paper and to perform a self-assessment (see section 5.2).

▪ Request for accreditation

The CTA candidate initiates the core accreditation process by selecting, contacting and subsequently placing an order to an available Accreditation Body.

The information handed in by the CTA candidate to the Accreditation Body shall include:

- Positioning paper of CTA candidate
 - General company presentation
 - Current activities concerning AUTOSAR
 - Earlier experience with Conformance Testing
 - Possible schedule for assessment
 - Modules planned to be covered by CTA candidates planned CTS (if any)

If the CTA candidate strives to become a third party CTA, the following additional information is required:

- Strategy for the third party CTA role
- Geographical coverage

Note: the Accreditation Body may ask for further information

▪ **Inform AUTOSAR Management Board of CTA candidate request**

All CTA candidates are tracked on a list of potential accredited organizations. This list is distributed to the AUTOSAR Management Board on a regular basis and just for information.

4.2 Independent Assessment or surveillance

▪ **Preparation of and call for assessment**

The CTA candidate chooses the Accreditation Body out of the official AUTOSAR Accreditation Bodies list and schedules the assessment bilateral with the assessor.

As preparation of the assessment the CTA candidate provides the chosen Accreditation Body with the results of the self-assessment.

In case of first time accreditation the CTA candidate is at least expected to give some evidence of its competence (i.e. by developing a sample test-suite and results of conducted reference tests¹) for the assessment.

Further details concerning the content of the assessment are described in Section 5.

▪ **Assessment process**

The assessment is performed at the CTA candidate's site and will under normal circumstances not exceed 2 days² for the full assessment.

¹ In case of initial accreditation it is possible that no *real* products to be tested exist since the candidate intends to set-up such a business. In that case the candidate is allowed to prove his capability while conducting reference product tests.

² The duration of the assessment depends e.g. on the size of the assessed organization. A fixed duration cannot be defined.

- **Assessment results**

As an outcome of the assessment the assessment protocol, improvement measures and common goals are made available to both parties.

- **Decision on CTA candidate accreditation**

The Accreditation Body is the only body with authority to decide on a CTA candidate's approval. At this stage it shall give clearance for accreditation. For operating conformance test services under the scope of the accreditation the CTA candidate is required to have a valid AUTOSAR membership agreement.

- **Inform AUTOSAR Administration**

The Accreditation Body provides all information on the accreditation status to the AUTOSAR Administration in order to update the official list of accredited bodies and to issue the CTA agreement for the signature process (if not already signed).

Contact addresses of all accredited third party CTAs are available internal for all AUTOSAR members. This will include information on the kind of (additional) offered conformance test services and CTS (including info on modules covered).

- **Official notification**

The official notification on the accreditation is provided by the Accreditation Body to the CTA candidate.

- **Call for surveillance**

Surveillance will be held every two years (after 24 months) with a reduced amount of assessment criteria (at the discretion of the Accreditation Body). For surveillance the process will be shortened to step "Preparation of and call for assessment" up to "Official notification".

The target of such surveillance is to check follow-up issues and comments of the last surveillance or assessment. It shall make sure that no major deviation to the last assessment or surveillance results occurred.

Please see also Figure 3.

- **Call for (re-)assessment**

The full set of criteria has to be evaluated in the initial assessment and every 5th year. Please see also figure 3.

AUTOSAR may call for extraordinary assessments with reasonable notice (full amount or subset of criteria, when and why) in case of relevant changes to the accreditation process or performance issues with a CTA (e.g. recurrent complaints, major quality issues being reported to AUTOSAR, etc.).

5 Accreditation / Assessment

5.1 Principles

Whether or not all of these tasks are actually performed, a CTA is expected to be sufficiently competent in order to:

- Develop and market (including the necessary customer service) a CTS, which implements the AUTOSAR Conformance Test specifications
- Conduct the Conformance Testing itself, i.e. execute the CTS against the product under test
- Approve the test results, i.e. issue an attestation of conformance

Within the assessment, the focus with regard to these three tasks differs between a third and a first party CTA.

However, in principle AUTOSAR seeks to ensure that competent CTA are established, in order to enable global support of conformance testing for all relevant technical areas of the AUTOSAR standard. Appendix B summarizes the relevant success factors (SF).

The usage of this table is on voluntary basis and will not be evaluated by AUTOSAR (in particular any positioning statements will not be taken as an entrance barrier).

For the validity of the accreditation within the organization of a CTA, see section 2.1.

5.2 Self-Assessment

As part of the information package the CTA candidate is provided with documents to be filled out in advance to the independent assessment. These documents comprise general criteria (e.g. for Quality & Management System, Technical Requirements) which take reference to established international standards.

The results of this self-assessment are intended to provide the CTA candidate itself with a good picture on the potentiality of becoming accredited. If clarification is needed, the AUTOSAR Administration is available for the CTA candidate.

5.3 Independent assessments

While reviewing the provided self-assessment documentations the Accreditation Body gets a picture of the assessed organization and is able to prepare the on-site assessments. Here the capability of the organization with regard to conformance testing will be checked in detail.

The criteria used for the assessments are based on pertinent international standards. According to the different focus related to the roles of a first and a third party CTA, two different base standards are used. For a first party CTA this is ISO/IEC 17025 [5], for a third party CTA instead ISO/IEC Guide 65 [6] is used.

These ISO/IEC standards are tailored to the AUTOSAR specific needs. Accordingly, AUTOSAR has defined application rules for ISO/IEC 17025 [5] and for ISO/IEC Guide 65 [6] respectively. In either case the required AUTOSAR specific technical competencies are largely identical.

Together with the various product categories addressed by the AUTOSAR standard, the scope of accreditation that can be achieved (following a successful assessment) can take one or a combination of a number of possibilities. This is illustrated in Annex C.

In correspondence to the specific AUTOSAR conformance test processes the needed accreditation status to become an officially CTA is described in the following chapters.

Within the AUTOSAR conformance testing context a threefold approach is defined. On the one hand the conformance test process involves a third party CTA to independently attestate the test results which is known as path A. Alternatively self conformance can be declared by a first party CTA within the Product Suppliers organization. This is known as path B and C. The main differentiation between those two paths is that in path B the CTS has to be purchased from another first party or third party CTA. For further details please see AUTOSAR DS Conformance Test Process document [1].

5.3.1 Accreditation status needed for conformance test path A

Following accreditation status is needed for performing the conformance testing process in reference to path A:

- Third party attestation capabilities to be accredited in reference to the AUTOSAR Application Rules of ISO/IEC Guide 65 [6].

The assessment of the third party CTA capability for provision of a CTS (self-developed or sourced) is covered by assessing the general personnel expertise to be available in order to fulfill the requirements of the referred standard [6].

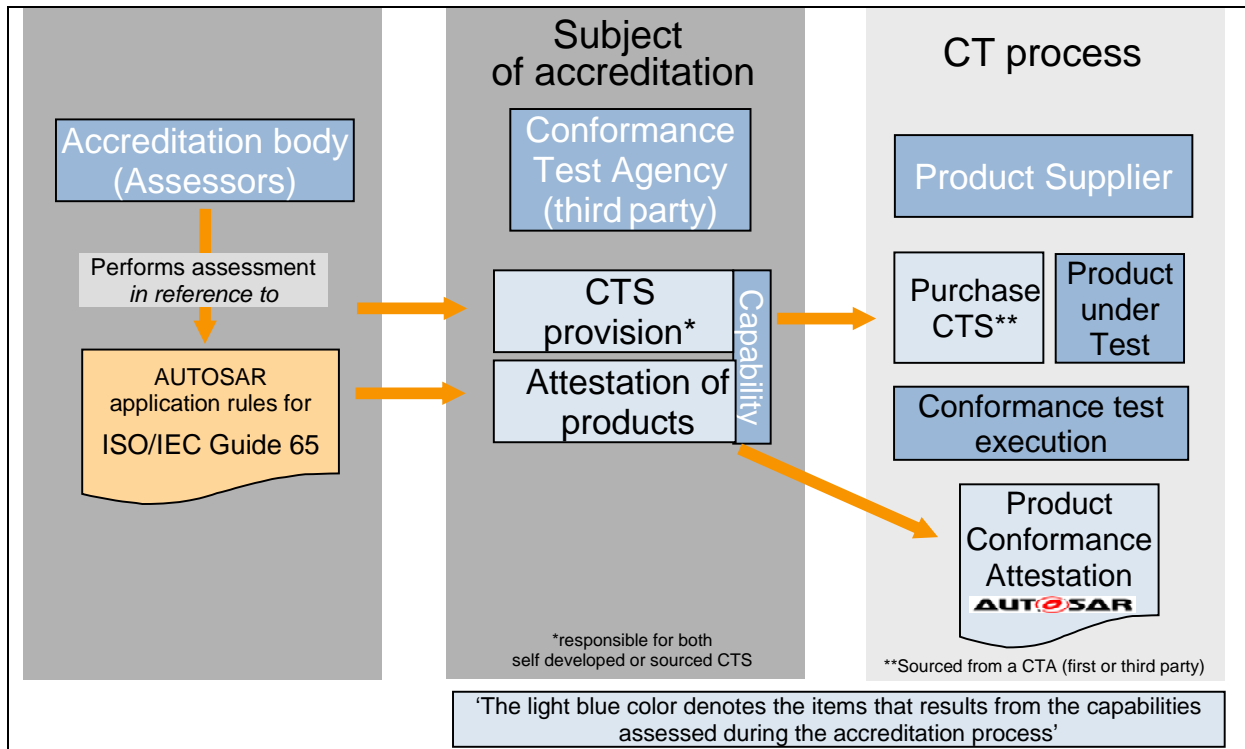


Figure 5: Third party accreditation overview for path A

5.3.2 Accreditation status needed for conformance test path B

Following accreditation status is needed for performing conformance testing process in reference to path B:

- First party conformance testing and self declaration capabilities to be accredited in reference to the AUTOSAR Application Rules of ISO/IEC 17025 [5].
- CTS used within the Conformance Test Process **must** be sourced from an accredited first and/or third party CTA.

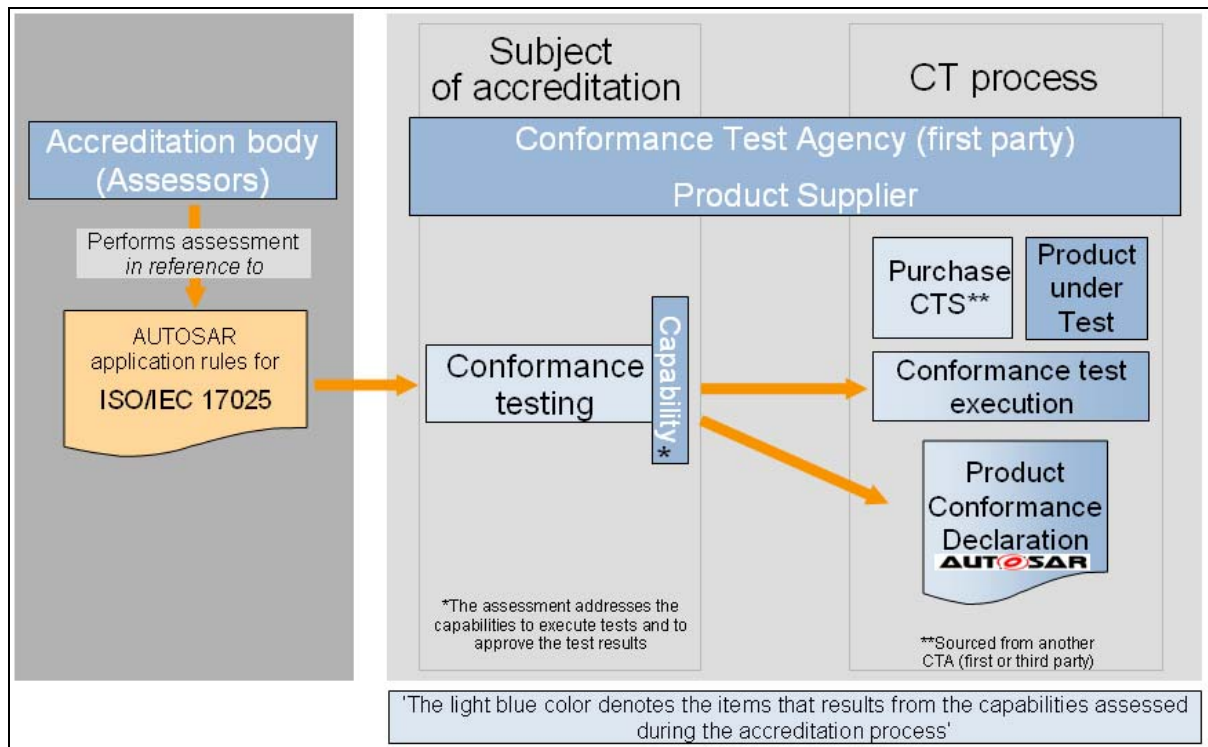


Figure 6: First party accreditation overview for path B

5.3.3 Accreditation status needed for conformance test path C

Following Accreditation status is needed for performing conformance testing process path C:

- First party conformance testing and self declaration capabilities to be accredited in reference to the AUTOSAR application rules of ISO/IEC 17025 [5].
- CTS used within the Conformance Test Process is self-developed or have been made by a subcontractor under full ownership of the first party CTA.

The assessment of the first party CTA capability for providing a CTS (self-developed or sourced) to another first party is covered while assessing the general personnel expertise to be available in order to fulfill the requirements of the referred standard [5].

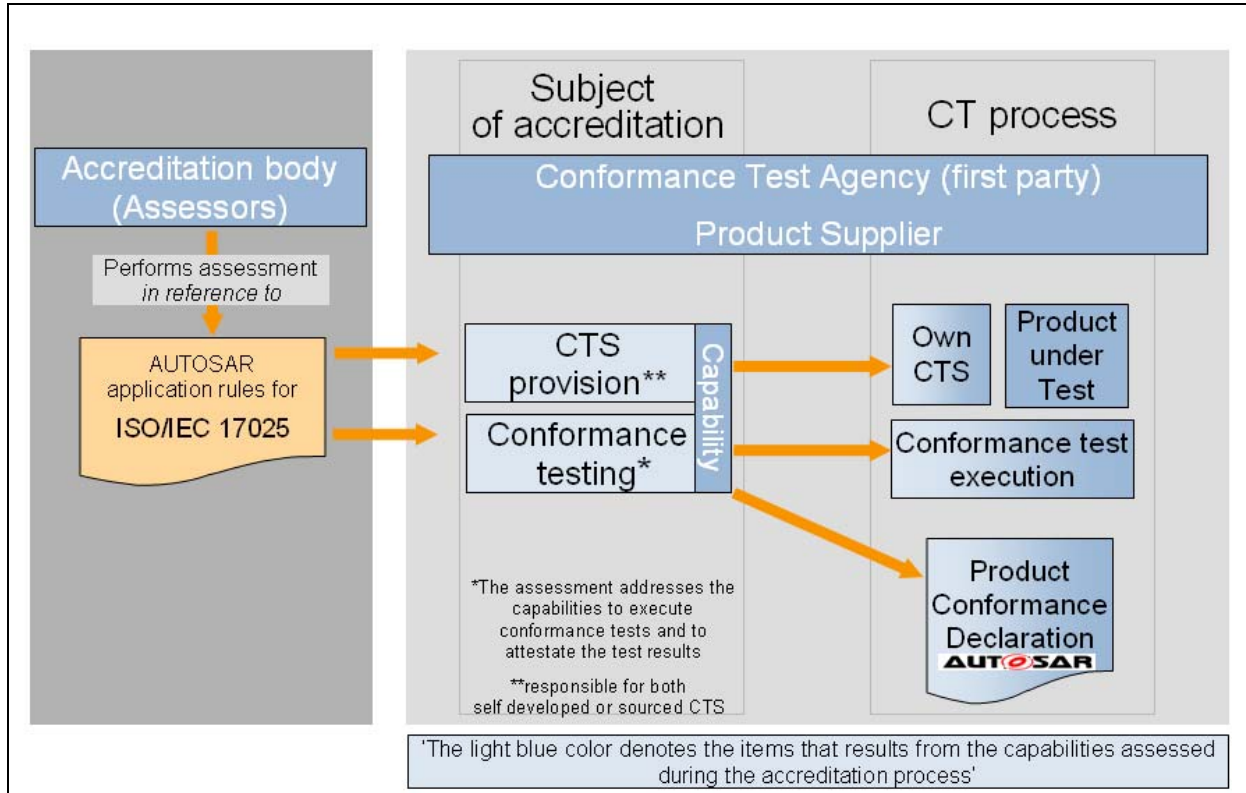


Figure 7: First party accreditation overview for path C

Annex A Requirements traceability

The conformance test requirements refer to the CTA accreditation process (the present document), to the conformance test process definition [1] and to the test specifications. The following table gives an overview on the requirements which has been processed/addressed in this document.

Requirement ID	Description	Section(s) CTA Accreditation Process
[CTR0130]	Formal conformance procedure	All
[CTR0170]	Update Test implementations in synchronization to standard releases	5.3. In scope of assessment / surveillance in reference to ISO/IEC 17025
[CTR0180]	Worldwide representation of CTAs in major automotive areas	4.1
[CTR0191]	A CTA shall be impartial with respect to testing and attestation services	5.3. In scope of assessment / surveillance in reference to ISO/IEC 17011
[CTR0200]	AUTOSAR publishes the contact addresses of all CTA(s) accredited	4.2
[CTR0210]	Monitoring the AUTOSAR test market	4.1 4.2
[CTR0220]	Assistance to CTAs	3.2
[CTR0280]	CTAs will be assessed regularly	2.2
[CTR0331]	No limitation to the number of CTAs	1.0
[CTR0351]	A CTA shall offer a basic conformance test package	3.5
[CTR0420]	A Product Supplier can be accredited for self-conformance declaration	1.0, 5.3
[CTR0440]	CTA surveillance shall include CTS continuous improvement check	5.3. In scope of assessment / surveillance in reference to ISO/IEC 17025.

Annex B CTA candidate positioning sheet

Category	No	AUTOSAR Success Factor	SF for CTA candidates internal self assessment		
			1	3	5
Organization	O1	In order to leverage exploitation of the standard, interoperability, re-use/portability and scalability of AUTOSAR products must be secured through the means of cost-efficient conformance testing	The CTA candidate is ... committed to this mission and objectives		
			... not in general terms fully ...
	O2	The up-front investment into the development of quality conformance test solutions is a prerequisite for success	The CTA candidate is ... to invest		
			... reluctant considering able and willing ...
	O3	The role of an agency implies active promotion of and feedback to the standard in order to secure utilization and sustain usability	The CTA candidate sees itself as ... of the standard		
			... end user niche distributor active advocate and local customer interface ...
	O4	Impartiality and independence from undue commercial pressures are prerequisites to secure comparability and objective judgment of test results	The operation of the test services the CTA candidate provides is ... automotive product development		
			... intermixed with organizationally decoupled from independent from ...
Technology	T1	The validity and value of Conformance Testing must be secured through "state of the art" competencies in testing and attestation of product conformance against set standards	The CTA candidate has "State of the art" competencies in ...		
			... neither testing nor attestation	... conduct of laboratory tests	... both testing and attestation
	T2	The nature of the AUTOSAR standard requires significant experience with Embedded Software as well as automotive E/E systems	The CTA candidate has a proven track record concerning		
			... only other technical areas	... Embedded Software or automotive E/E systems	... Embedded Software and automotive E/E systems
Process	P1	The process of conformance testing shall add value to new automotive products and must not place an undue burden on their development	The CTA candidate is ...		
			... not willing to support customers unless paid extra	... reacting on a routine basis to customer complaints	... highly responsive and dedicated to customer support ...
	P2	AUTOSAR conformance test solution has to follow good engineering practices	The CTA candidate has a...		
			... installed QM - System without external confirmation	... external confirmed QM system	... certified maturity model installed.
	P3	Get specifications from AUTOSAR and keep conformance test solutions up-to-date with this information	The CTA candidate commits to ...		
			... correct own bugs only	... react to new standard release when resources allow	... proactively plans for and updates test solutions promptly

These SF are included in this document for transparency reasons - as a prerequisite for creating awareness and enable joint spirit and commitment.

It is not expected that each individual CTA candidate does score high on every SF:

- On one side, several SF (in particular O1, O3, P1) are rather important on a total scale. AUTOSAR undertakes to support these by process design or specific actions, if necessary.
- On the other side, several SF (in particular O2, O4, T1, T2, P2) actually do imply a certain level of achievement for each individual CTA.

Annex C Scope of AUTOSAR accreditation

The scope of any specific accreditation can take one or a combination of the possibilities indicated by the blank cells in the table below.

CTA role	Product category addressed by the AUTOSAR standard			
	BSW	RTE	SW-C	Tool APIs
Third party CTA	--	--	--	--
First party CTA with CTS	--	--	--	--
First party CTA without CTS	--	--	--	--

The necessary assessment coverage is detailed in the AUTOSAR application rules for ISO/IEC 17025 [5] (for a first party CTA), respectively ISO/IEC Guide 65 [6] (for a third party CTA)

Annex D Acronyms and Abbreviations

API	Application Programming Interface
BSW	Basic Software
SF	Success Factor
CTA	Conformance Test Agency (first or third Party)
CTR	Conformance Test Requirement
CTS	Conformance Test Suite (used for AUTOSAR conformance testing)
E/E	Electric/Electronic
PS	Product Supplier
QM	Quality Management
RTE	Runtime Environment
SW-C	Software Component
TBD	To Be Defined

Annex E CTA accreditation status form

Name of Conformance Test Body: (CTA candidate)

Name of Accreditation Body / Assessor: (Accreditation Body - Assessor)

Date of incident: (Date)

Role: Third Party CTA
First Party CTA (including CTS)
First Party CTA (excluding CTS)

Technical coverage: BSW
RTE
SW-C
Tool APIs
Details:

Change of accreditation status

- Granting of accreditation
- Extension of accreditation
- Reducing of accreditation
- Suspending of accreditation
- Withdrawing of accreditation
- Details

As evaluated within the performed assessment (CTA candidate) is qualified to perform the functions of a (CTA candidate) CTA

Only applicable for third Party CTA accreditation:

Additionally to the standard services the (CTA candidate) agreed to provide a Product Conformance Test Service performed within own facilities: Yes No.

Following geographical area (CTA candidate) agreed to provide with the above mentioned services:

- Europe
- Americas
- Asia / Pacific
- Others

Legend:

CTA: Conformance Test Agency

CTS: Conformance Test Suite

BSW: Basic Software

RTE: Run Time Environment

SW-C: Software Components

API: Application Programming Interface