



IAF CAAR | CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT | FIRST EDITION

REPORT TRUST & MARK RULES

Scope-bound approval claims, authentic reports, public verification and correction of misuse.

PREPARED FOR IAF ADOPTION

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Body accreditation | Bounded project recognition
Automotive conformity assessment | English master text

International Automotive Federation

iaf.com

Document control

Item	Controlled value
Programme	IAF Conformity Assessment Accreditation & Recognition (IAF CAAR)
Sector	Automotive and related mobility conformity assessment
Document	Report Trust & Mark Rules
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Preparation date	16 September 2026
Status	Prepared for IAF adoption. Effective operation requires a recorded adoption and implementation notice.
Owner	International Automotive Federation
Master language	English
Hierarchy	Standard with category schedules, automotive overlays and internal directives; adopted implementation notice within those rules; Trust and Mark Rules; Operations and Technical Manuals; Applicant Guide; controlled forms.
Authority boundary	Voluntary sectoral assurance. No automatic public appointment, statutory authorization, external-standard equivalence or universal acceptance.
Use	Controlled ten-document set. Protect completed applications, client evidence, personal data and decision records.

Purpose and use

Scope-bound approval claims, authentic reports, public verification and correction of misuse.

This document implements the Standard and cannot weaken its requirements. Administrative convenience, commercial priority or a favorable score cannot compensate for unproven competence, unsafe work or compromised impartiality.

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TR01 What an IAF approval establishes

A precise trust claim

CAAR approval concerns demonstrated competence, impartiality and reliable operation within an identified scope. ACC applies to continuing body capability; REC applies to a bounded project and enumerated outputs. Neither route establishes that every result is infallible, every product is certified or every authority must accept the output.

The approved scope is part of the decision and must remain accessible. A logo without a verifiable entity, category, method/scheme, site, dates and limitations is insufficient for reliance. IAF membership and participation in committees are separate from technical approval.

The user of the report

Before relying on an output, confirm that its purpose, object/configuration, criteria, decision rule and limitations fit the intended use. Check any required legal or contractual acceptance separately. A report may be authentic and within scope yet unsuitable for a different vehicle variant or decision.

TR02 Authorized wording and prohibited claims

ACC wording

The approved wording is: IAF Approved Body - CAAR Accredited. It shall be accompanied by the legal body identity, body ID and a reliable link or reference to the exact approved scope and current status. Where space is limited, use the identifier and an accessible scope statement; never remove material restrictions.

Use the wording only for active matching scope. Do not say all services approved where only selected activities are covered. Captive and related-enterprise relationships remain visible and shall not be relabeled as independent third-party certification.

REC wording

The approved wording is: IAF CAAR Recognized Assessment Record. Identify the project ID, output ID, recognized revision, decision date and limitations. Recognition of a report does not accredit the issuer, certify an unrelated product or authorize future outputs.

Prohibited claims include automatic worldwide regulatory acceptance, public appointment without evidence, guaranteed safety, unlimited scope, retroactive accreditation and approval based on membership alone. Marketing statements must be checked against the actual decision.

TR03 Report endorsement and mixed-scope work

Eligibility check before release

For ACC, verify legal entity, active scope at performance and issue dates, category, method/scheme version, range, location, delivery and independence mode. Confirm competent review, authorized release, object/configuration and required limitations. A failed check prevents endorsement of the affected work.

Work completed before ACC approval cannot be retrospectively endorsed. A corrected document may preserve a truthful historical statement about an originally eligible report, but cannot imply

new approved work or current authority where scope is suspended or expired. Obtain IAF authorization for any corrective status wording that could confuse users.

Mixed work and external providers

Clearly identify which results are within approval, outside approval, externally performed or based on client-supplied information. Use row-level or section-level labels that remain visible in extracts. A general disclaimer hidden at the end is insufficient when the overall layout implies that all results are endorsed.

The body remains responsible for evaluating external evidence, but cannot lend its approval to an external provider or obscure the provider actual status. If a combined conclusion depends materially on out-of-scope work, explain that limitation and do not present the conclusion as wholly covered.

TR04 Mark and visual identity controls

Authorized artwork

Use only IAF-issued controlled artwork and license instructions. Preserve proportions, colors, legibility and clear separation from client or product marks. Record the artwork version and authorization. These documents do not create a new seal or grant a mark license to an applicant.

Place the mark with the required route wording and body/project identifier. A mark shall not dominate a report in a way that implies IAF performed the work. The issuing body remains clearly identified as responsible for its output.

Restricted placement

Do not place the CAAR body approval mark on vehicles, products, packaging, approval plates, calibration labels or personnel credentials in a way that implies those objects are IAF-certified. A body may use its own separately governed product or personnel certification mark under its approved scheme; that is distinct from CAAR body approval.

Do not use the mark on unrelated services, offers beyond scope, inactive approvals or membership-only materials. Extracts and translations must preserve route, scope and limitations. Require correction of misleading customer reuse.

TR05 Verification record and minimum data

Public body and scope record

The public record contains the legal body name, body ID, relevant country and location, route, category, scope row IDs, methods/schemes and editions, capability/range, independence mode, material limitations, decision ID, effective/expiry dates and current status. Include historical status changes and a verification contact without exposing private technical evidence.

For REC record project identity, window, claimant/issuer as appropriate, enumerated output IDs and recognized revisions, decision dates, boundaries and correction status. A finished project window is different from a withdrawn historical output.

Output authentication record

Maintain output ID, issuer, revision, issue and performance dates, scope links, object/configuration reference, authenticity mechanism, status and amendment chain. Publish only what confidentiality permits; an authorized private lookup may be needed for sensitive client or vehicle information.

If hashes or signatures are used, document the exact covered file and verification method, signing authority, key status and timestamp basis. A changed file requires a new revision or a clear explanation; a QR code that merely opens a homepage does not authenticate a report.

TR06 Verification workflow for report users

Five distinct checks

First, match the issuer legal name and identifier. Second, match the output ID and revision to the official verification response. Third, check document integrity and any signature or hash. Fourth, confirm the scope and approval status at the performance and issue dates and review current status. Fifth, evaluate the technical object, method, conclusion and limitations for the intended use.

Record each check separately as confirmed, contradicted or unresolved. Do not display a single positive result when only identity was checked. A current scope suspension requires an impact review of the specific historical report, not an automatic assumption that all prior reports are invalid.

Unavailable or conflicting information

Where the platform is unavailable, use the controlled manual contact and retain its response. An outage is unresolved verification, not confirmation of approval. If document and register disagree, preserve both and request investigation before relying on a consequential conclusion.

For suspected forgery, contact the issuing body and IAF through independently obtained contact details. Do not use only a contact embedded in the questionable file. Preserve the original and relevant communications.

TR07 Corrections, suspension and historical reliability

Revision and invalidation

A correction receives a distinct revision, reason, date and link to the superseded version. Identify changed results and consequences. Notify known recipients when reliance could be affected. Never overwrite an original report without a traceable amendment chain.

Use clear output states such as issued, superseded, withdrawn or under investigation, distinct from body states such as active, suspended, expired or withdrawn. Under investigation does not assert a final technical failure; it communicates unresolved confidence requiring caution.

Impact review

Determine which outputs are affected by the actual cause, time window, methods, equipment, staff or site. Preserve valid historical facts for unaffected outputs. Where evidence is insufficient to distinguish affected records, explain the uncertainty and apply proportionate protective limits.

Public status updates normally occur within two business days of the relevant protective decision. Record both the decision effective time and publication time, including any delay. Restoration requires verified correction and an independent decision; it does not erase the suspension interval.

TR08 Platform specification and service readiness

Minimum operating functions

The proposed platform must support separate entity, site, scope, decision, project and output records; versioned scope; role-based access; immutable event history; restricted evidence storage; current and historical verification; corrections; export; retention holds; and manual fallback. This is a specification to implement and validate, not a claim that all functions already operate.

Use machine-readable records with explicit schema versions, time zones, status meanings and error responses. Test duplicate identifiers, conflicting dates, revoked signing keys, missing fields, concurrent updates and recovery. Do not allow a cached status to appear current without showing its retrieval time.

Release tests and accountability

Before launch, test end-to-end grant, report issue, amendment, suspension, expiry, withdrawal, restoration, REC closure, access revocation and disaster recovery. Confirm that a status change reaches all relevant verification views and exports. Maintain an accountable operator and escalation contact.

Automated checks may flag inconsistencies but shall not make accreditation or disputed adverse decisions alone. Human decision authority, reasons and evidence must remain traceable. Publish actual service limitations and planned improvements truthfully.

TR09 Misuse response and acceptance development

Enforcement

Receive reports of misleading logos, forged outputs and unsupported claims through protected channels. Preserve examples, identify the responsible party and evaluate affected users. Require prompt correction; serious or repeated misuse may lead to scope suspension or withdrawal through due process.

Distinguish an innocent layout error from deliberate concealment, but correct both. Review whether the problem indicates weak release controls or a broader integrity failure. Update templates, staff authorization and client terms where needed.

Build actual acceptance

Maintain an acceptance register identifying the party accepting CAAR evidence, the purpose, geography, technical scope, dates, conditions and limits. Obtain specific documented arrangements and periodically confirm they remain valid. Never infer universal recognition from the existence of one agreement.

Publish proportionate performance information: assessment coverage, resolved complaints, significant integrity actions and programme improvements, with confidentiality protected. Reliability, transparent limitations and effective correction are the basis for confidence; promotional claims must remain within the evidence.