



IAF SDR | SOFTWARE & DIGITAL | FIRST EDITION

STATUS & MARK USAGE RULES

Corporate scope, product-facing claims, public verification
and truthful digital assurance.

PREPARED FOR IAF ADOPTION

Version 1.0 | 16 September 2026

Software Developers & Digital Tools
Corporate Recognition | English master text

International Automotive Federation

iaf.com

Document control

Item	Controlled value
Programme	IAF Software and Digital Systems Recognition Programme (IAF SDR)
Document	Status & Mark Usage Rules
Edition / version	First Edition Version 1.0
Prepared	16 September 2026
Status	Prepared for IAF adoption. Effective operation requires recorded adoption, validated pilots and an operational verification route.
Owner	International Automotive Federation
Master language	English
Public recognition wording	IAF Corporate Recognition - bounded to the approved legal entity, sites and activities.
Hierarchy	Standard including internal directives and normative annexes; adopted implementation notice within those rules; Status and Mark Rules; Audit and Software Lifecycle Manuals; Applicant Guide; controlled forms.
Authority boundary	Corporate implementation assurance. Corporate scope is separate from release approval; no blanket product certification, output endorsement or vehicle approval is conferred.
Control	Retain exact scope and criterion versions. Protect completed records, personal information and software evidence.

Purpose and use

Corporate scope, product-facing claims, public verification and truthful digital assurance.

Shall denotes a requirement; should guidance; may permission. Examples are illustrative unless a normative provision expressly establishes a rule. No checklist score can compensate for failed safety, integrity, competence or an unsupported scope.

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TR01 Meaning and limits of Corporate Recognition

IAF Corporate Recognition under IAF SDR identifies the exact approved legal holder, delivering hubs, lifecycle activities and product/service families. It concerns demonstrated organisational implementation and continuing control, including responsibility for commercial commitments and digital outputs.

It does not certify every software version, AI answer, test result, vehicle or customer integration. It does not guarantee absence of vulnerabilities, perfect availability or future model accuracy. Identify the corporate meaning whenever the status appears near a product or technical result.

Only a formally adopted operational programme and an authenticated independent decision create active status. Application, membership, payment, training, prototype demonstrations and private readiness review do not. Blank templates in this suite are not issued recognition or release approvals.

TR02 States, terms and dates

Applicant and Under Assessment are preliminary inactive states. Corporate Recognition is active only for the approved scope. Restricted retains only expressly stated active scope. Suspended, Expired and Withdrawn are inactive for affected scope; a general corporate heading shall not conceal a material restriction.

The maximum term is three years, with surveillance by months 12 and 24 and required annual hub/family coverage. Apply for renewal at least six months before expiry. Pending renewal, appeal or commercial arrangements do not extend the term.

Restoration follows verified correction and an independent dated decision, preserving interruption and previous status. Record decision effective time, publication time and verification retrieval time separately. Do not backdate recognition to an application, release or audit date.

TR03 Public scope and supported versions

Public scope shall identify programme, legal holder, record ID, lifecycle roles, families, hubs, material exclusions, version of the scope schedule, status and effective/expiry dates. Provide current verification and understandable limitations without exposing source code, credentials or customer data.

Supported release lines and configurations may be described in the controlled schedule, but corporate listing does not mean each version has a separate IAF product certificate. The holder shall maintain its own accurate release, known-limitation and support information linked to customer use.

Illustrative wording: “[Legal holder] holds IAF Corporate Recognition under IAF SDR for the lifecycle activities and families listed in record [ID], subject to current scope and status verification.” Replace placeholders only from an actual decision; disclose restrictions in the same context.

TR04 Corporate mark licence and placement

IAF shall control approved artwork, licensee, scope, channels, dates and verification route through a recorded licence. A pending applicant shall not use active artwork. Do not sublicense status to unassessed developers, resellers, open-source contributors or customers.

Websites, proposals, product pages, application interfaces and report templates may identify corporate recognition only where its meaning is clear. Do not place the mark as a pass/fail seal, vulnerability-free guarantee, AI reliability score or vehicle-function approval. Review surrounding wording and user interpretation.

Preserve approved proportions, legibility and accessible presentation. After restriction, suspension, expiry, withdrawal or relevant scope change, remove or qualify affected claims promptly. Historical release documents may retain truthful historical context but shall not imply current active status.

TR05 Current verification and unavailable results

Provide an authoritative current registry and controlled manual fallback. Match legal holder, record ID, scope version, dates and status. A QR code or copied certificate is only a route to information, not proof of present validity or release correctness.

If verification is unknown, unavailable, altered or unresolved, state that result and retrieval time. Never silently present a cached active record as current. Manual confirmation shall identify the responder, authoritative evidence and precise scope without disclosing protected technical material.

Publish protective changes normally within two business days and sooner for urgent risk. Preserve the actual effective time. Test outage, stale caches, incorrect family mapping and manual fallback before launch and during operator assurance.

TR06 Product, report and AI-output claims

The holder shall distinguish corporate status from its own technical claims about versions, configurations, accuracy, security, performance and support. Substantiate those claims with relevant evidence and limitations. A favourable benchmark or recognised company name shall not replace fitness-for-use evaluation.

Digital test reports and AI outputs retain their own provenance, version, intended use, uncertainty and correction controls. An authentic report can still be technically invalid, superseded or withdrawn. Corporate verification shall not be used to imply IAF reviewed or endorsed that output.

No claim shall describe IAF as the software author, insurer, transaction guarantor, statutory approver or authority permitting automated driving. Customer integration acceptance and underlying legal permissions remain separate and must be established for actual deployment.

TR07 Misuse, disclosure and correction

Capture the misleading content, channel, date, responsible party, actual scope and implied claim. Consider product-seal misuse, unassessed affiliates, unsupported future capability, expired status and hidden restrictions. Require correction across controlled websites, applications, proposals and distribution listings.

Where misuse indicates deliberate falsification or serious loss of control, initiate immediate protective review and applicable notice. Preserve evidence and give reasons and a fair response route. Necessary protection does not wait for an appeal or a promised future marketing revision.

IAF acts within its programme remit using competent review and prescribed independent decisions. Do not imply automatic legal enforcement powers over third parties. Record any lawful referral separately and verify actual correction and recurring causes.

TR08 Fair complaints and independent appeal

Provide accessible complaint and protected-reporting routes, assign uninvolved investigators, screen conflicts and prohibit retaliation. Anonymous evidence may warrant review when credible. Distinguish product/customer remedies, technical disagreement and programme-conduct concerns.

Allow appeal within 30 calendar days of decision notice. A different three-person competent panel participates and decides by at least two reasoned votes, targeting 45 calendar days after complete evidence. Explain delays; necessary protective action has no automatic stay.

Membership, sponsorship, payment and commercial importance shall not influence outcomes. Screen IAF case personnel over at least 36 months and longer where residual risks remain. Protect justified confidentiality while providing sufficient reasons for meaningful response.

TR09 Change, support exit and continuing duties

Notify planned material changes before implementation, unplanned changes within five calendar days and serious incidents within 48 hours of awareness. Earlier duties and emergency action take precedence. Relevant changes include lifecycle role, consequence, critical dependency, hub, support horizon and compromised release authority.

Keep new family/hub scope and unsupported experimental capability outside active claims until implementation, evidence, assessment and independent decision gates are met. Routine releases within unchanged scope still require complete technical release control; acquisition or rebranding does not automatically transfer status.

At expiry or exit, protect open incidents, customer data, necessary evidence, support and migration obligations. Retain truthful historical status and remove active claims. Ending recognition does not erase contractual duties, necessary security correction or responsible end-of-support measures.

TR10 Adoption, hierarchy and international credibility

The Standard, internal directives and normative annexes prevail. These rules operate within them; a licence, form label, implementation example or marketing statement cannot expand scope or waive a gate. Revise controlled documents and affected claims together.

This First Edition is prepared for IAF adoption. Before live recognition establish competent impartial operation, at least four representative pilots including a failed/contested case, essential-gap closure and tested current verification with fallback. Prepared documents alone do not prove an operating programme.

The programme is designed for international use and credible customer confidence. It claims no universal legal authority, automatic equivalence or acceptance by every party. Credibility depends on authentic release evidence, honest limitations, fair independent decisions and effective continuing correction.