iNTACS information letter 2023-12

intacs.info
International Assessor Certification Scheme

Dear iNTACS members, SPICE assessors and friends of intacs®!

As we approach the end of the year, we wanted to take a moment to update you on some important changes that will be taking place in the coming months. We are awaiting the release of the new AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0 soon. iNTACS is in close contact with the VDA QMC® Working Group 13 to update the training concept and material to support this new automotive PAM. We will be rolling out the new trainings soon, so stay tuned for more information.

A lot of work is done in the iNTACS Working Groups. So have a look to the articles below to have an insight into their work.

All the best,

Your iNTACS WG "Information Management"

Table of Contents

News from the Executive Board

AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0 Upgrade training

For AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® Assessment using PAM 4.0 the Assessment team leader (Lead Assessor) must ensure that the assessment team is qualified for the assessment model in use. Therefore, the upgrade training is mandatory upfront an assessment using PAM 4.0. The upgrade training will be available from the Training Providers.

Please ensure to use the newest assessment log template for documenting the assessment to be accepted for (re-)certification. The template is available in the Download section "Assessor Certification Documents" (link).

Gate4SPICE regulations for registration and participation

We would like to point out to all users who want to register for a Gate4SPICE meeting that this must be done with the account that contains the valid certification number. If your access data are no longer available, please contact iNTACS user support at usersupport@intacs.info as soon as possible. Otherwise, your registration may not be recognized. In accordance with our IT rules, duplicate accounts without a certification number are deleted regularly.

Places to take part in a Gate4SPICE (G4S) event are usually booked up quickly. There is great demand to find out about new or current topics, exchange ideas with experts and obtain an EE certificate. Unfortunately, it happens again and again that registrations are made, and the colleagues then do not attend. In doing so, they may block a place for another colleague on the waiting list. In this context, we would like to ask you once again to cancel your participation in good time if you are unable to attend. We would like to point out once again the rules for non-compliance:

- If a registered participant fails to appear for a G4S event without prior notification (at least 7 days before the event), the person will be put on a list.
- If the same person fails to appear for an event again within the next twelve months (again without prior notification at least 7 days before the event) his/her registration for upcoming (within next twelve months) G4S events will be rejected. He/she will be put on the waiting list instead and will be allowed to participate only if there are free places after the registration deadline has ended.

	Executive Board contact: Lars Dittmann (lars.dittmann@intacs.info)

News from our Working Groups

Status of iNTACS Working Group "New Training Courses and coordination"

We are excited to bring you the latest updates on our AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® 4.0 training program and its transition to AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0. With AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® 4.0, we are expanding our training architecture and introducing the Process Expert level. As you know, staying up to date with the latest industry standards is crucial for maintaining excellence in the automotive sector. Our training courses are designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills necessary to assess or teach AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0 effectively.

Getting familiar with AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0

If you are new to AUTOMOTIVE SPICE®, you will start with the Process Expert Training as described in Figure 1.
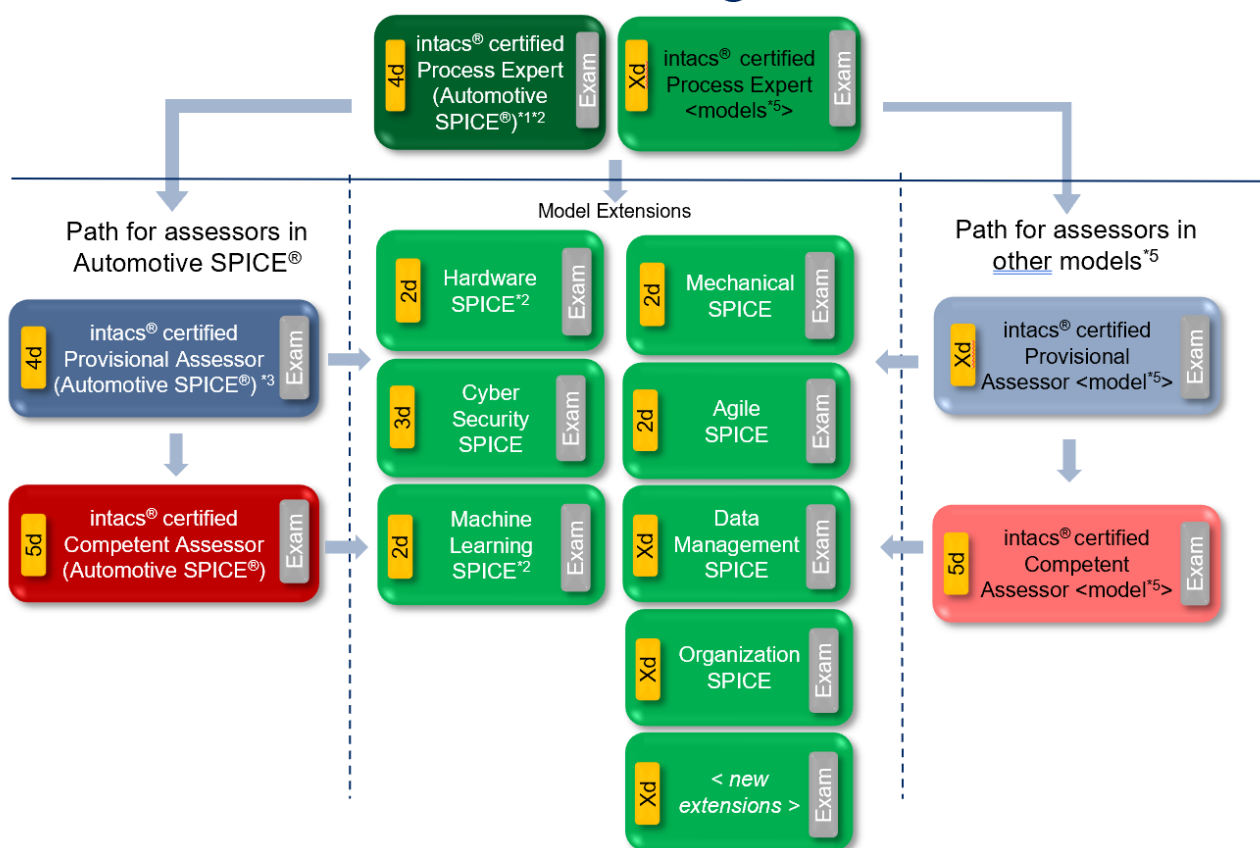

The future intacs® Training Architecture

Figure 1: New training architecture for AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM4.0

*1 includes Core PAM*4 4.0 processes without HWE and MLE, emphasizes Process Improvement
*2 includes all Guideline aspects regarding content
*3 includes all Guideline aspects regarding rating
*4 Core PAM for AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® 4.0 contains Base / System / Software processes (and not model extensions for Hardware Engineering and Machine Learning)
*5 Other models, e.g., Medical SPICE, SPICE for IT Services, Organizational SPICE, Test SPICE, ISO/IEC TS 33061 (SW Life Cycle)

By completing the Process Expert course, participants are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to become proficient in implementing software development processes based on the AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® framework. This expertise allows them to contribute to process improvement initiatives within their organizations and ensure compliance with industry standards in the automotive sector.

After successfully completing this trainings course you can decide to join the path for assessors in AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® by joining the Provisional Assessor Training for becoming a Co-Assessor and later the Competent Assessor training for becoming a Lead Assessor.

Modular Training Courses

In addition to the described AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0 trainings, we offer a range of modular courses to cater to different areas of expertise. Our course offerings include e.g., Cybersecurity, Hardware, and Machine Learning. These courses provide valuable insights and knowledge in their respective domains. Please note that all extension courses require an examination to assess your understanding.

Flexibility and Certification

We understand the importance of flexibility in your training choices. Therefore, we provide the freedom to choose whether to participate in extension trainings. However, it is important to note that the basis for certification is always the Core-PAM. The Core-PAM is defined as AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM without the extensions Cybersecurity, Hardware, and Machine Learning. The certification is only granted if the Core-PAM is supplemented by extension modules. Extension modules alone do not lead to certification.

Transition to AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0

We are pleased to announce the launch of our AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® 4.0 Upgrade training will take place by the end of Q1 2024. This training is specifically tailored to address the concept changes introduced in AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0. By participating in this one-day training, you will gain a comprehensive understanding of the new version. Please note that there is no examination for the AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0 Upgrade training and that Lead Assessors & Instructors are required to undergo the Upgrade Training in order to qualify for assessing or teaching AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0.

Upgrade trainings for instructors at Provisional/Competent Level are conducted by VDA QMC ® Working Group 13 experienced "Instructors Provisional/Competent Level." These trainers have the expertise to guide you through the transition to AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0 effectively. The Upgrade trainings are not limited in time and will be available for an unlimited period. We aim to accommodate your needs and ensure you have ample opportunity to upgrade your skills.

To ensure a smooth training experience, we have established priorities for participation. Competent and Principal assessors have priority 1, followed by Provisional Assessors with priority 2. This ensures that those with more experience and responsibility in the assessment process have the opportunity to upgrade their skills first.

To enhance the training experience and encourage active participation, we require all participants to have an activated web camera during the training sessions. Please ensure that your web camera is functioning properly before the session begins. Additionally, to maintain an interactive learning environment, we limit the number of participants to a maximum of 20 per training session.

We look forward to welcoming you to our AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0 training program. Stay connected with us for updates and announcements regarding upcoming training sessions. Together, let's embrace the advancements in the automotive industry and elevate our skills to new heights.

	Contact:
	Josefin Benning (josefin.benning@intacs.info)
	iNTACS Working Group Lead "New Training Courses and coordination"

Status of iNTACS Working Group "Hardware PAM"

intacs® is soon going to release version 3.0 of the intacs® Hardware PRM/PAM. It uses the same new concepts as AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0 does as it was developed in parallel to the VDA QMC® Working Group 13 work. This hardware PRM/PAM was provided by iNTACS to the VDA® for free use. It therefore is going to be part of upcoming AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0 as the hardware extension.

The same applies to the upcoming VDA® AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® Guidelines v2.0. The hardware process related content corresponds to the content in the intacs® Hardware PRM/PAM.

Note that having different HW PRM/PAM "dialects" from iNTACS or the VDA® in the future is not intended. This means, it is the intention to keep the HW PRM/PAM in both models consistent.

As both VDA® WG 13 and the iNTACS WG HW PRM/PAM concentrated on finalizing AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® PAM 4.0 and the hardware PRM/PAM.v3.0, respectively, in the recent past, only training materials and exam questions for the hardware PRM/PAM v2.1 are currently available. Work on the new v3.0 training materials and exams has started, and a certification path will be defined and set up together with the VDA® QMC® and the ECQA®.

Please note that intacs®-certified instructors must, in order to be able to deliver official trainings for any hardware PRM/PAM of whatever version, participate in the trainings themselves. They must also pass the exam.

	Contact:
	Pierre Metz (pierre.metz@intacs.info)
	iNTACS Working Group Lead "Hardware SPICE"
	Convener of the Advisory Board

Status of iNTACS Working Group "Functional safety"

As the Working Group Functional Safety, we want to provide project teams and assessors guidance for efficiently and effectively addressing both functional safety and AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® in automotive development projects.

We have split the Working Group into two main areas:

1. Guidance for Functional Safety Confirmation Measures
2. AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® meets Functional Safety

Our activities are conducted synchronized with VDA®/DIN® NA 32-08 in order to stay aligned with our normative body.

Guidance for Functional Safety Confirmation Measures

The members working on the guidance for functional safety confirmation measures are working as functional safety assessors and professionals on a daily basis. They have observed that there is very little standardization for performing confirmation measures for functional safety, and several different concepts are being utilized by the different organizations.

There are two topics that we are currently working on: Firstly, the processes for functional safety confirmation and, secondly, the functional safety assessor and auditor qualification.

In the topic for processes for functional safety confirmation, we have our current focus set on the functional safety audit, which is evaluating the processes performed in a project against the expectations of the ISO 26262. Connected to this, the second topic aims at identifying an appropriate qualification program for performing this work in a competent fashion.

In our Backlog we have topics like the Functional Safety Assessment process, Functional Safety Confirmation Review Process, Functional Safety Auditor training program, and Functional Safety Assessor Qualification and Training program.

AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® meets Functional Safety

The members working on the guidance for AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® meets Functional Safety are working either as AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® Assessors, Functional Safety Assessors, or even as both. They have observed that whereas AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® and functional safety are sharing objectives, very little exploitation of synergies can be seen in our daily work, and projects are often faced with both topics independently.

During our project work, we came to understand and differentiate between three levels of interactions between AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® and Functional Safety:
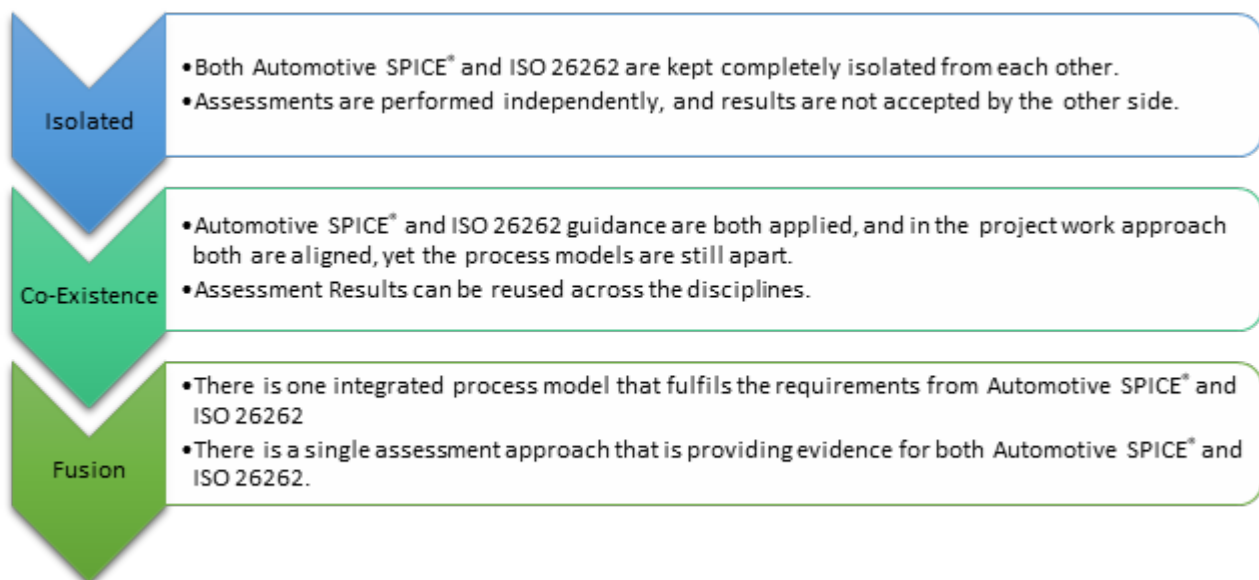

Isolated
- Both Automotive SPICE® and ISO 26262 are kept completely isolated from each other.
- Assessments are performed independently, and results are not accepted by the other side.

Co-Existence
- Automotive SPICE® and ISO 26262 guidance are both applied, and in the project work approach both are aligned, yet the process models are still apart.
- Assessment Results can be reused across the disciplines.

Fusion
- There is one integrated process model that fulfils the requirements from Automotive SPICE® and ISO 26262
- There is a single assessment approach that is providing evidence for both Automotive SPICE® and ISO 26262.

Figure 2: Concept for "Fusion of Functional Safety and AUTOMOTIVE SPICE®"

We have observed approaches for Fusion of Functional Safety and AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® in the fields, such as the Swedish standard SS 7740, which is a PAM for the ISO 26262, yet there is no generally accepted approach for this. We believe that we first need to work step-by-step on a common understanding before we can address the topic of fusion between the disciplines.

Therefore, the two topics that we are currently working on are, firstly, resolving ambiguities between AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® and functional safety and, secondly, exploring the possibilities of deriving synergies between AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® and functional safety.

For the first topic we are working on a whitepaper for explaining the differences between the Functional Safety Audit and the AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® Assessment. Whereas for some this topic appears trivial, it is an important step towards a common understanding.

For the second topic, we are discussing using AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® Assessment Results in functional safety projects, also aiming at a whitepaper.

Working Group activities

The Working Group Functional Safety is welcoming new members to support our work. We are convening fortnightly each even calendar week on Mondays and Wednesdays.

🪪	**Contact:** Hendrik Meyl (hendrik.meyl@intacs.info) iNTACS Working Group Lead "Functional Safety"

Gate4SPICE event: "Driving Quality Excellence: Mercedes-Benz R&D India Leads the Charge at Gate4SPICE Event"

As the automotive industry takes more purposeful strides in the spheres of connectivity, safety, innovation, and sustainability, the common thread linking all of these to redefine the customer experience is exceptional quality. As part of World Quality Week 2023, Mercedes-Benz® Research and Development India Private Limited (MBRDI) hosted its first Gate4SPICE event – 'Ignite. Innovate. Inspire - Paving the way for mobility with AUTOMOTIVE SPICE' – a benchmark for quality assessment.

The two-day event brought together the global assessors' community to enable knowledge-sharing for a common understanding of SPICE-related topics while also promoting a culture of continuous improvement. This platform also focused on elevated automotive software quality by accelerating industry focus on the safety and reliability of automotive software. The diverse audience included provisional, competent, and principal AUTOMOTIVE SPICE assessors from different automotive suppliers and OEMs as well as leaders from across various departments within MBRDI.

Figure 3: Gate4SPICE participants at the two-day event in Bangalore (India).

In his welcome address, MD and CEO, MBRDI, Manu Saale, mentioned, "At Mercedes-Benz, quality has been the hallmark of everything we do. As we move towards a more connected future, challenges will continue to persist. Taking these risks into consideration, we need to learn and embrace process improvement frameworks like AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® which present layers of protection to ensure privacy and move ahead responsibly and securely."

Figure 4: Manu Saale (MD and CEO, MBRDI) welcomes all Gate4SPICE participants.

AUTOMOTIVE SPICE® is an important topic for the Mercedes-Benz Group given the focus on ensuring and enhancing the quality and efficiency of software development processes, thus moving forward towards the vision to #LeadInCarSoftware.

Ravindra Nath, Principal Assessor and Certified Trainer, IQI Consulting Services mentioned "We haven't witnessed a Gate4SPICE event of this magnitude in recent times. MBRDI has set a new standard within the automotive industry. The event welcomed over 65 participants from leading OEMs and tier-1 suppliers in India who actively engaged in networking sessions and discussions around a spectrum of AUTOMOTIVE SPICE®-related topics, new technologies, and emerging innovations.

This text and pictures are kindly provided by Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI).

intacs.info
International Assessor Certification Scheme

Disclaimer, Trademarks, and Imprint

In case you like to register or cancel your registration for this information letter, please log-in into your account at intacs.info and edit your profile in the section "Newsletter Language".

Trademarks

We would like to point out that the use of trademarks has been detailed in agreement with our partners as follows:

intacs®, Agile SPICE®, AUTOMOTIVE SPICE®, VDA QMC® and ECQA® are registered trademarks. The usage of the forenamed trademarks and any associated logo for any kind of certificate is prohibited.

The usage of logos for other purposes must always be approved in writing in advance by the respective rights holder. Any infringement may lead to a loss of the assessor's certification and may trigger legal consequences.

Please also mind the statements in the "Application for Assessor Certification" document signed by each assessor for the first and re-application of the assessor license.

Used trademarks in this document:

- AUTOMOTIVE SPICE®, ASPICE®, VDA® and QMC® are registered trademarks of VDA Verband der Automobilindustrie e.V., 10117, Berlin, DE
- ECQA® is a registered trademark of Reiner, Michael, 3552, Dross, AT
- Medical SPICE® is a registered trademark of Hölzer-Klüpfel, Matthias, 97082 Würzburg, DE
- VDI® is a registered trademark of Verein Deutscher Ingenieure, 40468, Düsseldorf, DE
- DIN® is a registered trademark of DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung eV, 10787 Berlin, DE
- Mercedes-Benz® is a registered trademark of Mercedes-Benz Group AG, 70372 Stuttgart, DE
- iNTACS®, intacs® and Agile SPICE® are registered trademarks of International Assessor Certification Scheme e.V. (iNTACS e.V.), 51147, Köln, DE

Translations

All translations are based on the English version of the information letter. The English version is always the leading version. This information letter and all translations are property of iNTACS e.V.

Thanks to the translators for supporting us for in translating this information letter.

📇	**Chinese translation:** Yawen (Evan) Hou Member of iNTACS Working Group "Information Management"
📇	**Korean and Japanese translation:** Kwangho Che iNTACS Regional Representative KOREA

Comments and Feedback

Do you have comments or feedback to our information letter?

Your feedback is highly welcome!

All the best,

Thomas Kömmerling & Team

	Contact: Thomas Kömmerling (thomas.koemmerling@intacs.info) iNTACS Working Group Lead "Information Management" Member of the Advisory Board

International Assessor Certification Scheme e.V. (intacs e.V.), Herderstr. 7, 51147 Köln, Germany