

Hamburg, 2019-12-04

## **Technical Assessment**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Technical assessments have previously been conducted every three years within the approval process for workshops by VPI/VERS. There were no intervening audits during the years in-between, with the exception of some occasion-specific audits.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 this system will be switched to the intervals that are generally applied internationally and even mandated to a certain extent.

Major audits at a workshop will now take place every 5 years. Annual intervening audits will take place in the years in between. Deviations from this 5-year interval are permitted only in exceptional cases.

After passing a major audit VERS will issue a certification valid for 5 years. This can be retracted at any time, such as if serious deficiencies are discovered in one of the annual intervening audits.

For all workshops that have successfully passed a major audit prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 nothing is changing right away. The certificates remain valid for 3 years without annual intervening audit. Only upon the next major audit will the switch to the 5-year rhythm with annual intervening audits take place.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

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