

Matrix Auditing within the Framework of the Technical Assessment (FtB)

VPI European Rail Service GmbH enables matrix audits of workshops within the framework of technical assessments. This facilitates the auditing of company groups (UV) by reducing the number of individual audits.

Various general requirements have to be met in order to conduct matrix audits:

- The workshops must belong to a company group.
- The workshops must have a common central office that has overall responsibility for defining and monitoring the management system.
- All workshops work according to an identical management system with a common quality policy, common quality objectives and common quality management documentation.

Furthermore, the following special features / restrictions apply:

- Repair workshops with wheelset reconditioning and / or heavy maintenance are generally inspected annually.
- During the initial technical assessment of a company group, the central unit and all other locations are always audited. For all further audits, at least the central unit and one further location are audited; for larger company groups also several locations after coordination.
- If the central unit as well as the other sites have already undergone individual technical assessment before introduction of the matrix audit and still have valid approvals, only the central unit as well as all sites whose technical assessments expire within the next 12 months must be audited when applying the matrix audit of the company group. In any case, however, at least one further site must be technically audited.
- New sites within the framework of a company group are not part of the previously conducted **matrix audit** of the company group without a separate technical assessment.

What are the advantages of a matrix audit:

- Mobile service teams (outside a workshop location) or outsourced small service points of a workshop only need to be audited once in the usual 5-year period.
- In the case of smaller workshops within a company group that carry out inspection work without wheelset reconditioning, the intervals between audits (normally 1 year) can be extended. The time interval then depends on the size and the work carried out at the respective location. Appropriate consultations with VERS are to be held on this within the framework of the audit preparations.

What are the risks of a matrix audit:

Even if only one company / location does not meet the requirements of the technical assessment during a **matrix audit**, then the entire company group will automatically fail. This means that the entire company group with all its locations will have to undergo a full technical assessment at short notice or that the approval of all workshops and mobile service teams of the company group will be withdrawn by VERS.

Your contact at VERS:

Thomas Schulte-Zweckel Phone +49 174 3186114
Email schulte-zweckel@vpi-vers.eu