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STANDARDS & GUIDANCE BRIEF · EUROPEAN UNION · INDUSTRY AUDIT STANDARD

VDA 6.3

Process Audit — Product development process, serial production, service development process, and services

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ISSUED BY	German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA QMC)	PREPARED BY	Conner Davidson
EDITION	4th edition (2023)	STATUS CHECKED	October 24, 2026
INDUSTRIES	Automotive	ONLINE	qesisbest.com/standard-vda-6-3.html

CURRENT EDITION It replaced the 2016 edition; German OEMs and many of their tiers require it for supplier process audits.

What It Covers

A question-based audit of the processes that develop and produce a product, scored to show how well each process element performs, rather than whether a system exists.

Who It Applies To

Suppliers to German OEMs and their tiers, and organizations that use it to audit their own suppliers.

Key Requirements

- Process elements P1 to P7, from potential analysis and project management through supplier management and production to customer care.
- Each question scored 0, 4, 6, 8 or 10, with an overall result and grade (A, B, or C).
- Downgrading rules, so a single poor question can lower the grade regardless of the total.
- Qualified VDA 6.3 process auditors, with the audit tied to a specific product and process.

What an Auditor Asks to See

- The last internal VDA 6.3 audit, its scores, and the action plan.
- Evidence for the questions marked with an asterisk, which can trigger downgrading.

Where Systems Fall Short

- Audits scored generously by the team that runs the process.
- Action plans that answer the score rather than the cause.

How QES helps. Pre-audits scored the way a German OEM auditor would score them, with action plans that close the cause. See the gap assessment: qesisbest.com/services.html#gap-assessment · +1 (401) 246-3204 · mweeden@qesisbest.com

Sources, checked October 24, 2026. VDA QMC — Quality Management Center publications — vda-qmc.de/en; DQS — Changes to VDA 6.3:2023 — www.dqsglobal.com/en-hk/blog/hk/changes-to-vda-6.3-2023.

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