

IEC 61508 THE FALL AND RISE OF CERTIFICATION

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Calamity.

AND in the beginning there was none and Lo the world was surely not fully safe. But it came to pass, in the age of the new millennium, that a new order was manifest in the land of safety critical systems. Though it had been many long years in the writing so shall it speak the truth and the truth is written in testaments seven. And the truth is called IEC 61508 and the truth was found to be good and the World can be safe if the heathens can be brought to the light and certification be assured.

Ascension.

AND so the believers went forth into the world to spread the gospel among the people of like nature and all those whosoever haveth a conscience and a desire to seek the truth. After three full years and also many months, Lo a committee established of like minds and including the chosen one was able to embellish the word and to provide the guidance that was so fearfully lacking. The guidance was tested by wise men in council with the chosen one and others of like mind. The guidance was found to be good though the communication of the word was a little long winded and the word's preparation and communication came to be underlined many fold as a lesson to all. The chosen one was suitably impressed and a voice on high spoketh to him and said, "Thou art the chosen one and the responsibility for raising the people of HIMA of the Cellar to an exalted state shall be with you. Yours shall be the challenge to achieve the near impossible in nearly three months". The voice spoke one more time and this time it was to speak of the dire consequences for the world if failure should result and, as an aside, noted also the difficulties that might be imposed on an unspecified individual in a potentially hostile company. And the chosen one was duly impressed and resolved not to incur the wrath of the voice on high.

Success.

For three score days and ten did the chosen one burn the midnight oil. And he was not alone for the people of HIMA of the Cellar were behind him and with the help of the mighty QA and the words of the voice on high ringing in his ears, so he was able to see the light and to hear unspoken words from the Guide. And the words of the Guide said, "for Functional Safety Capability Assessment use the CASS guide" and he did. The Guide said 'First thou must produce four MAPs and four MAPs appeared and the MAPs were good and the MAPS gave directions to the fountain of knowledge. Unspoken words again rang in his ears and the words encouraged him to bathe in the water of the fountain of knowledge even though there was sufficient only for a few TOES. But the TOES and the MAPs where good enough and together they presented a signpost which read, 'complete these and the way forward shall be clear to those who have seen the light'. And so was the signpost path followed until all of HIMA of the Cellar were clear and lights did glow manifold and success was at hand.

afety.

And verily after three score days and ten the teachers of the word and the teachers of the teachers of the word did descend upon HIMA of the Cellar and for three whole days did they create mayhem among the written testament and on the chosen one they did cast doubt and depression. The people of HIMA of the Cellar were confused and lacked faith and they asked if the chosen one should be chosen for the long walk into the darkness of obscurity. But, on the third day the teachers of the word and the teachers of the teachers of the word spoke out and they said 'This Company HIMA of the Cellar, they are good and they have listened to the word and they have read the truth in seven testaments and they have understood and interpreted the truth into their own language. And the language is good'.

The teachers of the word and the teachers of the teachers of the word then left HIMA of the Cellar saying 'Whosoever follows the words of the chosen one will be smiled upon and the World shall have Functional Safety and this Company HIMA of the Cellar shall be the FIRST of many and shall lead the way into a bright new World.'

And Certification was achieved and it is good. So sayeth SIRA, CASS, Hima-Sella and the HSE.

Here endeth the lesson according IEC 61508 (First Edition) as interpreted by CASS.