

R/3® System

SAP®, the leading vendor of open business applications, has developed a special certification program for third-party complementary products. This allows you to benefit from short implementation cycles for ready-to-use solutions.

Complementary Software Certification

Ready-To-Use Solutions

Certification

Interoperability means the seamless integration of applications and components from different vendors. Customers need interoperability when they select add-on products, but there is often no guarantee that this important requirement is fulfilled.

In response to this problem, SAP has implemented a process for certifying add-on components for its own application interfaces. This process involves a detailed technical evaluation of the connection between the third-party complementary product and the SAP software, but does not examine the actual application functionality of the product concerned.

No matter where certification is obtained, it is valid worldwide. So far, SAP certification labs have been set up in the USA, Germany and Japan.

Customer Benefits

SAP is committed to enhancing its openness. Our aim is to guarantee seamless integration of third-party products with the SAP applications that run your core business. When you choose from our list of certified products, you are assured the following benefits:

- reduced implementation times by buying a ready-to-use solution
- reduced costs by installing a product with an interface that works with the dedicated R/3 application
- good investment in a complementary product with a stable interface to our enterprise software.

Third-party Benefits

It is not only customers who gain from SAP's certification process. By having their interfaces tested, software partners can rest assured that their add-on solutions will work with the tested interface at all customer sites. The partner also receives marketing support and increased visibility through its association with SAP.



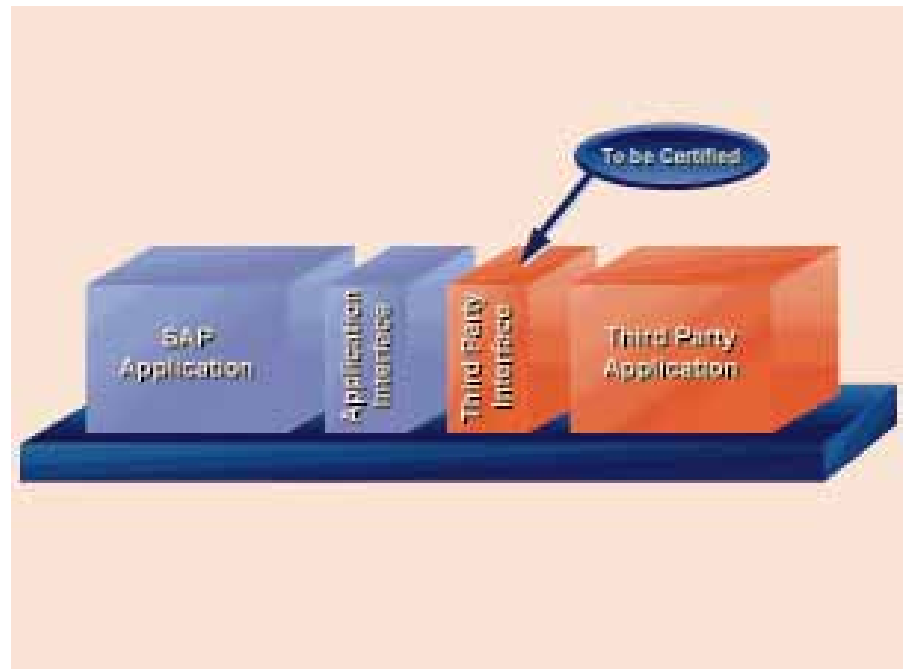
Certification Areas

Certification of third-party connections covers the following areas and interfaces:

- ALE subsystems (XA-ALE)
- Barcode readers (PP-PDC, MM-MOB)
- Classification systems (PP-CLS)
- Computer-aided design and electronic catalogs (CAD interface)
- Document management systems (PP-DMS, SAP ArchiveLink®)
- EDI subsystems (WF-EDI)
- Export Invoices (SD-EXP)
- Geographical information systems (PP-GIS)
- Laboratory information management systems (QM-IDI)
- Mobile data recording (MM-MOB)
- Optical archives (SAP ArchiveLink)
- Sales and use tax (XA-TAX)
- Process control systems, shop floor control systems (PI-PCS)
- Time and attendance systems (PP-PDC)
- Warehouse control systems (WM-LSR)

Certification Steps

Third parties applying for certification from SAP receive an interface description and a certification contract. The test itself takes place in one of the certification centers, and if it is



successful, the partner receives a test report and a certificate. The partner is then entitled to use a certification logo in its marketing material (see figure). A list of all certified connections is available for SAP sales, SAP marketing, partners, and customers. Solutions with certified connections are also entered in a catalog, and may be presented at exhibitions and trade fairs.

The Future

SAP intends to provide further interfaces for certification. Interfaces to system management tools will become part of the certification process as well as database backup tools.

SAP is also interested in overall standardization of interfaces between applications, and is therefore actively involved in the Open Applications Group (OAG).

Following the successful integration of Object Linking and Embedding (OLE), SAP will continue to pursue its policy of incorporating widely accepted standards in the R/3 System.

Technology and Service

R/3 software is based on Client/Server Architecture. R/3 is designed as an open system for use on operating systems from a variety of vendors. Along with the software, SAP offers you a complete spectrum of services: professional consulting in organizational and technical issues ranging from project planning to system implementation, qualified staff training, and 24-hour hotline support.

SAP's quality management system for software development meets the international ISO 9001 standards.

Find out more. Just call or write us.