

Your challenges

Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) is being increasingly incorporated into business operations. However, even FOSS is governed by licensing agreements and their infringement could lead to severe consequences, such as the termination of user rights, prohibition of the redistribution of modified versions, and compensation claims. Such action could have farreaching impacts throughout the FOSS supply chain and cause long-term harm to the reputation of the software company involved.

The management of FOSS license compliance is highly complex as it requires the development of procedures and guidelines, the identification of roles responsible for its management, as well as effective skills management and a training strategy.

Why is FOSS licence compliance important for your business?

FOSS enables new software developments to be implemented at a significantly faster pace and lower cost. This continuous development consistently gives businesses access to the latest software, which is critical to the safety and security of software applications. However, FOSS licence compliance is not optional and is an essential element of corporate compliance, as every company must fulfil its obligations to the regulators and operate in accordance with the law. Proof of FOSS licence compliance is also increasingly a requirement for software vendors during the contract tender process.

FOSS licence compliance verification will therefore become a critical factor for the sale of products integrating FOSS, and for companies seeking to establish

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partnership-based collaboration. To prevent infringements of licensing agreements, businesses must establish a suitable process for guaranteeing and verifying compliance. However, as they are using a growing number of FOSS products from a variety of sources, this is no easy task.

How can we help you?

TÜV SÜD's FOSS Licence Compliance certification scheme simplifies compliance verification through the creation of a standardised process. Based on the ISO/IEC 5230:2020 Information technology — OpenChain Specification, this standardised process enables a business to review its underlying processes and fully document compliance with licensing agreements.

TÜV SÜD's FOSS Licence Compliance certification is a three-step process:



Your business benefits

- Corporate compliance prevent potential licensing conflicts, avoid liabilities, and prove due diligence to investors and business partners.
- Competitive advantage increase business efficiency and effectiveness and use FOSS compliance as a strategy to help differentiate your business and grow your market share.
- Enhanced market reputation work with a global leader which has developed a ground-breaking FOSS certification process that independently verifies your conformance.

Why choose TÜV SÜD?

TÜV SÜD's extensive compliance and software experience, combined with profound regulatory and supply chain management expertise, make us uniquely positioned to help you assess FOSS licence compliance processes. All our methodologies are proven in the field and our FOSS Licence Compliance certification is the first of its kind. TÜV SÜD experts also actively participate in international standardisation committees, gaining valuable insights on the latest regulatory developments.

The TÜV SÜD certification mark



Due to our experts' relentless commitment to instil safe and compliant operations across industries, the TÜV SÜD certification mark has become a globally renowned symbol for safety, security and trust.

Add value. Inspire trust.

TÜV SÜD is a trusted partner of choice for safety, security and sustainability solutions. It specialises in testing, certification and auditing services. Since 1866, the company has remained committed to its purpose of enabling progress by protecting people, the environment and assets from technology related risks. Through more than 24,000 employees across over 1,000 locations, it adds value to customers and partners by enabling market access and managing risks. By anticipating technological developments and facilitating change, TÜV SÜD inspires trust in a physical and digital world to create a safer and more sustainable future.

Related services

TÜV SÜD provides the following related services:

- Software escrow
- Software quality certifications
- Security testing and certifications
- Compliance management systems
- Audit services