

Safety over  
**EtherCAT**  **Implementation Guide**

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## DOCUMENT HISTORY

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## ABBREVIATIONS

μC	Microcontroller
CoE	CANopen over EtherCAT
COTS	commercially of the shelf
CTT	Conformance Test Tool
DPRAM	Dual-Ported RAM
ENI	EtherCAT Network Information (EtherCAT XML Master Configuration)
EoE	Ethernet over EtherCAT
ESC	EtherCAT Slave Controller
ESI	EtherCAT Slave Information (EtherCAT Devices Description)
ESM	EtherCAT State Machine
ETG	EtherCAT Technology Group
FoE	File Access over EtherCAT
FSoE	Failsafe over EtherCAT
I/O	Input/Output
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IRQ	Interrupt Request
MAC	Media Access Controller
MI	(PHY) Management Interface
MII	Media Independent Interface
NIC	Network Interface Card
ns	nanoseconds (10 <sup>-9</sup> seconds)
OD	Object Dictionary
PELV	Protected extra low voltage
PLC	Programmable Logic Controller
PDO	Process Data Object
SDO	Service Data Object
SELV	safety extra low voltage
SoE	Servo Profile over EtherCAT
WD	Watchdog
WKC	Working Counter
XML	eXtensible Markup Language

## 1 Scope

This document describes from a very practical point of view which topics have to be kept in mind for a successful usage and/or implementation of the Safety-over-EtherCAT Technology. It considers the following issues:

- What are the requirements for a machine builder, EtherCAT master manufacturer or Safety device manufacturer
- What kind of information and documentation is available
- How to start with an implementation
- Where can I get technical support
- Is a conformance test available?

The EtherCAT Technology Group will not assume any responsibility or liability if a manufacturer of an Safety-over-EtherCAT device is infringing safety standards or regulations.

All responsibilities for the proper application of Safety-over-EtherCAT Technology, i.e. the development, the creation and certification of safe products in whole or in part including the safety risk and hazard analysis and classification, remains with the device manufacturer.

## 2 Terms, Definitions and Word Usage

### 2.1 Terms and Definitions

The terms and definitions of ETG.1000 series [6] shall be fully valid, unless otherwise stated.

**EtherCAT device**

non safety-related device with EtherCAT interface

**Fail-safe over EtherCAT (FSoE)**

Protocol for transferring safety data up to SIL3 between FSoE devices

**protective extra-low-voltage (PELV)**

electrical circuit in which the voltage cannot exceed a.c. 30 V r.m.s., 42,4 V peak or d.c. 60 V in normal and single-fault condition, except earth faults in other circuits

**safety extra-low-voltage (SELV)**

electrical circuit in which the voltage cannot exceed a.c. 30 V r.m.s., 42,4 V peak or d.c. 60 V in normal and single-fault condition, including earth faults in other circuits

**FSoE Device**

safety-related device with Safety-over-EtherCAT interface, can be implemented as FSoE Master or FSoE Slave device

### 2.2 Word usage: shall, should, may, can

The word *shall* is used to indicate mandatory requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform to the standard and from which no deviation is permitted (*shall* equals *is required to*).

The word *should* is used to indicate that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others; or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required; or that (in the negative form) a certain course of action is deprecated but not prohibited (*should* equals *is recommended that*).

The word *may* is used to indicate a course of action permissible within the limits of the standard (*may* equals *is permitted to*).

The word *can* is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical, or causal (*can* equals *is able to*).

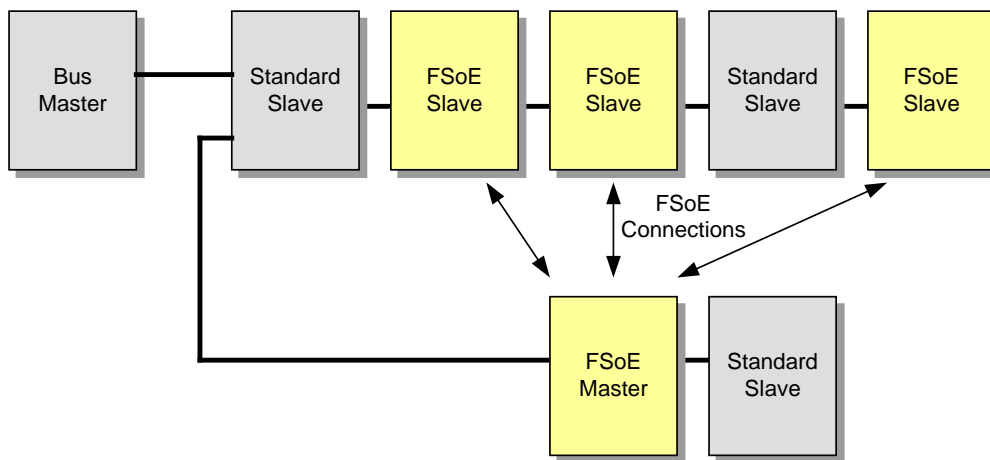
### 3 Safety-over-EtherCAT technology

#### 3.1 Overview

Safety-over-EtherCAT (FSoE) describes a protocol for transferring safety data up to SIL3 between FSoE devices. FSoE Frames are cyclically transferred via a subordinate fieldbus that is not included in the safety considerations, since subordinated fieldbus can be regarded as a black channel. The FSoE Frame exchanged between two communication partners is regarded by the subordinate fieldbus as process data.

FSoE uses a unique master/slave relationship between the **FSoE Master** and an **FSoE Slave**; it is called FSoE Connection (Figure 1). In the FSoE Connection, each device only returns its own new message once a new message has been received from the partner device. The complete transfer path between FSoE Master and FSoE Slave is monitored by a separate watchdog timer on both devices, and in each FSoE Cycle.

The FSoE Master can handle more than one FSoE Connection to support several FSoE Slaves.



**Figure 1: FSoE system architecture**

The integrity of the safety data transfers is ensured as follows:

- session-number for detecting buffering of a complete startup sequence;
- sequence number for detecting interchange, repetition, insertion or loss of whole messages;
- unique connection identification for safely detecting misrouted messages via a unique address relationship;
- watchdog monitoring for safely detecting delays not allowed on the communication path
- cyclic redundancy checking for data integrity for detecting message corruption from source to sink.

State transitions are initiated by the FSoE Master and acknowledged by the FSoE Slave. The FSoE state machine also involves exchange and checking of information for the communication relation.

The FSoE state machine is a separate state machine and runs on top of the EtherCAT state machine (ESM).

#### **Black channel approach**

FSoE protocol is implemented using a black channel approach; there is no safety related dependency to the standard communication interface. The communication interface including controllers, ASICs, links, couplers, etc. remains unmodified.

The communication path is arbitrary; it can be a fieldbus system, Ethernet or similar paths, fibre optics, copper wires or even wireless transmission. There are no restrictions or requirements on bus coupler or other devices in the communication path.

### 3.2 Documentation & References

Table 1 lists the relevant documents about the Safety-over-EtherCAT technology. For further documents about Safety and EtherCAT technology please see [www.ethercat.org](http://www.ethercat.org) → Downloads.

**Table 1: Standards and References**

Document	Description	Reference
[1] ETG.5100	<b>Safety-over-EtherCAT Specification</b> Protocol specification approved by TUV.	Send request to ETG ( <a href="mailto:info@ethercat.org">info@ethercat.org</a> )
[2] IEC 61784-3	<b>IEC specification of FSoE protocol</b> IEC 61784-3: Industrial communication networks - Profiles – Part 3: Functional safety fieldbuses, FSCP 12/1 (Safety-over-EtherCAT)	<a href="http://www.iec.ch">www.iec.ch</a>  <i>under construction</i>
[3] ETG.9100	<b>Safety-over-EtherCAT Policy</b> Rules and Requirements for using and implementing Safety-over-EtherCAT technology. The objective of this specification is to achieve a high quality and to get a high reputation in the market for the Safety-over-EtherCAT Technology	Send request to ETG ( <a href="mailto:info@ethercat.org">info@ethercat.org</a> )  <i>under construction</i>
[4] ET1902 [5] ET1903	<b>Safety-over-EtherCAT License</b> Safety-over-EtherCAT is registered trademark and patented technology licensed by Beckhoff Automation GmbH. Beckhoff has assured that they are willing to negotiate licenses under reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions with applicants throughout the world. Beckhoff offers an FSoE Master (ET1903) and an FSoE Slave (ET1902) License. The licenses includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general license for the manufacturer of FSoE conform devices</li> <li>• introduction in the technology, 1 day seminar in Verl, Germany</li> <li>• test cases</li> </ul>	Send request to Beckhoff (your local representative)
[6] ETG.1000	<b>EtherCAT Specification</b> EtherCAT Data link layer and application layer specification	<a href="http://www.ethercat.org">www.ethercat.org</a> → Downloads
[7] ETG.2000	<b>EtherCAT Slave Information (ESI) Schema and Specification</b> Describes the structure of the EtherCAT slave device description in XML format. FSoE related Parts are included.	<a href="http://www.ethercat.org">www.ethercat.org</a> → Downloads
[8] ETG.2100	<b>EtherCAT Network Information (ENI) Schema and Specification</b> Describes the structure of the EtherCAT network information description in XML format. Parts for Copy Information (Slave-to-Slave communication) are included	<a href="http://www.ethercat.org">www.ethercat.org</a> → Downloads

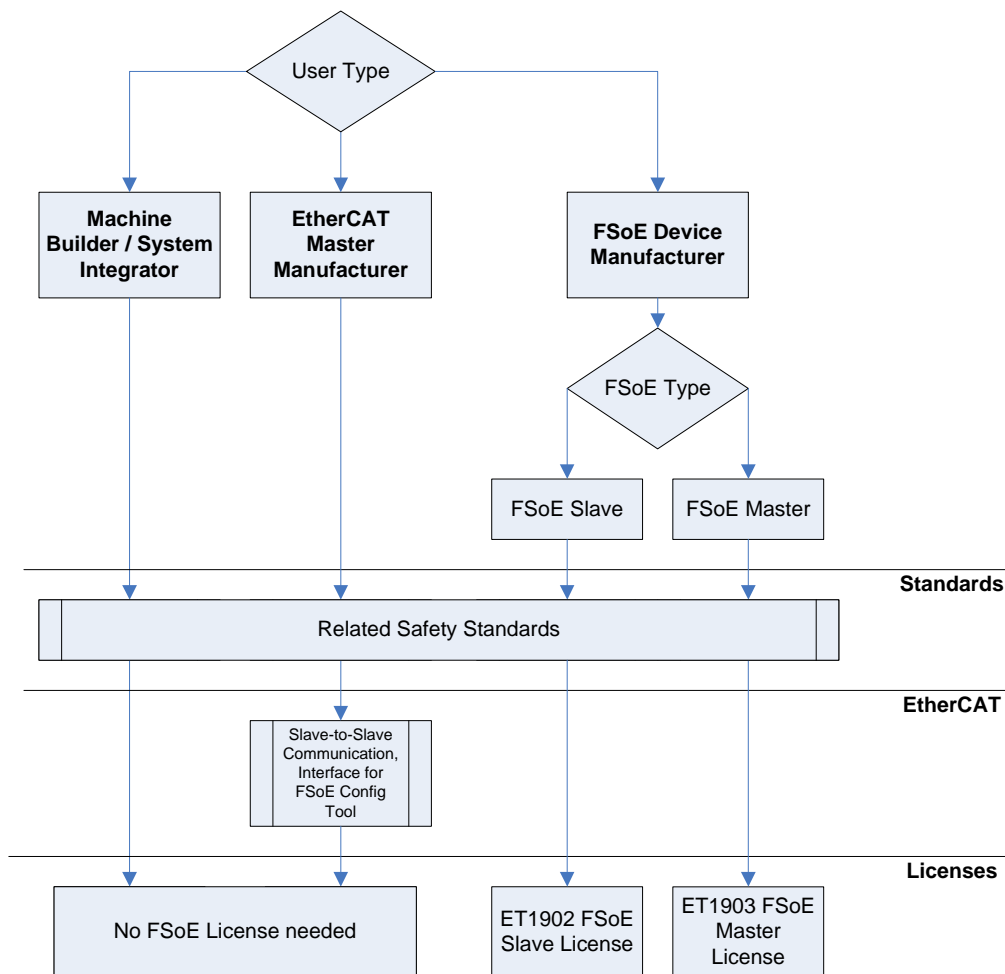
Document	Description	Reference
[9] ETG.2200	<b>EtherCAT Slave Implementation Guide</b> describes from a very practical point of view which topics have to be kept in mind for a successful EtherCAT slave implementation	<a href="http://www.ethercat.org">www.ethercat.org</a> → Downloads
[10]ETG.6100	<b>Safety-over-EtherCAT Drive Profile</b> Profile for adjustable speed electrical power drive systems that are suitable for use in safety-related application PDS(SR) with Safety-over-EtherCAT protocol	<a href="http://www.ethercat.org">www.ethercat.org</a> → Downloads
[11]FSoE_Seminar.pdf	<b>Safety-over-EtherCAT Seminar presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• basic of safety networks and international standards</li> <li>• Safety-over-EtherCAT technology</li> <li>• technical implementation aspects</li> <li>• Safety Drive Profile</li> <li>• benefits for the user</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ethercat.org/download/safety_seminar/">www.ethercat.org/download/safety_seminar/</a>
[12]FSoE Testcases Vxiy.xls	<b>FSoE Conformance Test Case Specification</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test case specification for FSoE Master and FSoE Slave.</li> <li>• Approved by TUV</li> </ul>	Comes with the FSoE license
[13] BV81379G_V1.4.pdf	<b>FSoE Approval report by TUV Sued Rail GmbH</b> Report of TUV approval for the FSoE protocol specification	Comes with the FSoE license
[14] Review_Ethercat_20071220.pdf	<b>Review report by TUV Sued Rail GmbH</b> Report of TUV presents the evaluation results of the FSoE Specification	Comes with the FSoE license

## 4 Technology Users

According to different use cases we distinguish different users of the FSoE technology:

- Machine builder  
builds a machine with COTS devices including FSoE devices
- EtherCAT master manufacturer  
vendor of non safety-related control systems (Master and/or IO devices). Integration of COTS FSoE Devices in the control architecture required.
- FSoE device manufacturer  
vendor of safety-related devices with FSoE interface

Figure 2 shows a diagram which defines the several types Technology users.



**Figure 2: User Types of Safety-over-EtherCAT**

### 4.1 Machine builders

A machine builder or system designer who uses devices with the Safety-over-EtherCAT Technology has the responsibility to perform a safety risk and hazard analysis and classification for his machine and to ensure a continuous safety-chain.

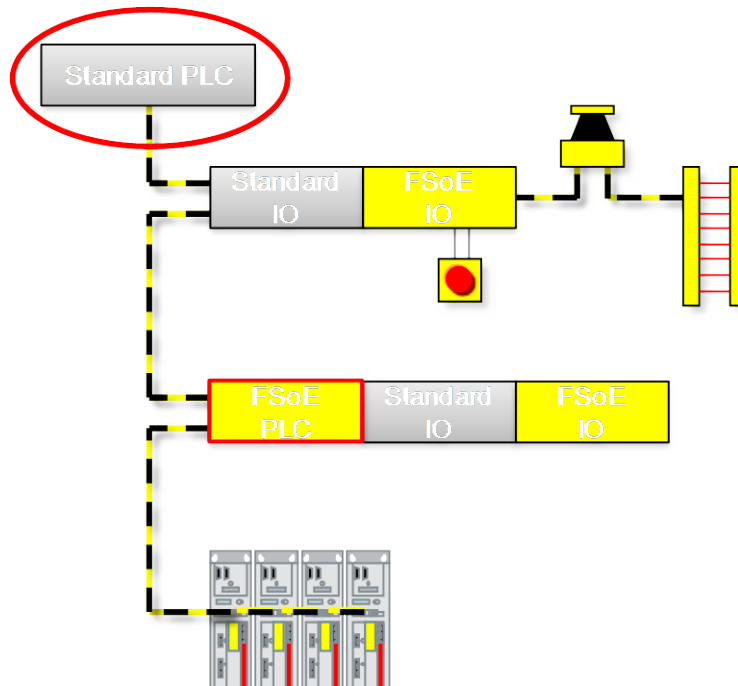
All devices connected to a safety communication system shall fulfill SELV/PELV requirements, which are specified in the relevant IEC standards such as IEC 60204-1

The resulting safety-function response time must fit to the application.

No Safety-over-EtherCAT license is needed.

## 4.2 EtherCAT master manufacturer

A vendor of a non safety-related control system (e.g. standard PLC) with an EtherCAT interface (EtherCAT master) can support the usage of FSoE devices within the EtherCAT network. The master acts like a bus master; the FSoE Master is integrated in an FSoE Device that is an EtherCAT slave.



**Figure 3: Decentralized approach with standard PLC**

No Safety-over-EtherCAT license is needed for the standard EtherCAT master.

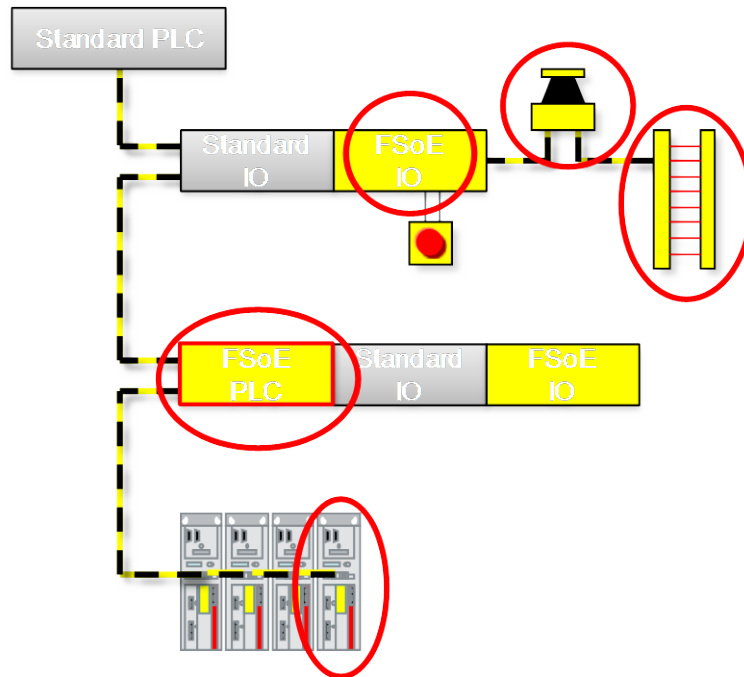
Requirements for the EtherCAT master:

- Support Slave-to-Slave communication  
copy the Safety Frames from the FSoE Master to the FSoE Slaves and vice versa.  
The copy information is part of the ENI [8] file.
- The EtherCAT master should support an interface for the configuration tool of the FSoE Master device.

### 4.3 FSoE Device Manufacturer

The device manufacturer has to implement the Safety-over-EtherCAT Protocol and the safety application in his device according to the related safety standards. It is mandatory that the implementation is approved by a notified body.

The Safety-over-EtherCAT Policy ETG.9100 [3] defines rules and requirements for using and implementing the Safety-over-EtherCAT Technology.



**Figure 4: Decentralized devices with FSoE interface**

The implementation of FSoE devices requires an FSoE license

- ET1902 for FSoE Slaves [4]
- ET1903 for FSoE Master [5]

See clause 5 for implementation details.

## 5 Safety-over-EtherCAT implementation

### 5.1 FSoE device structure

#### 5.1.1 General

The Safety-over-EtherCAT specification [1] comprises a protocol specification for a safety-related data transfer up to SIL 3. It does not define a particular hardware architecture or software design.

The report of the protocol approval ([13], [14]) demands an implementation that fulfills the following requirements:

- complete fulfillment of IEC 61508 and IEC 61784-3
- complete fulfillment of the FSoE Protocol Specification (ETG.5100)
- the implementation must fulfill the requirements of the claimed safety level and corresponding product specific requirements.

The FSoE Policy [3] defines further rules and requirements for using and implementing the Safety-over-EtherCAT Technology. This Policy shall be fulfilled.

#### 5.1.2 Hardware architecture

According to the black channel approach the communication hardware in a device can remain single channel, i.e. one EtherCAT Slave Controller (ESC) for the EtherCAT interface.

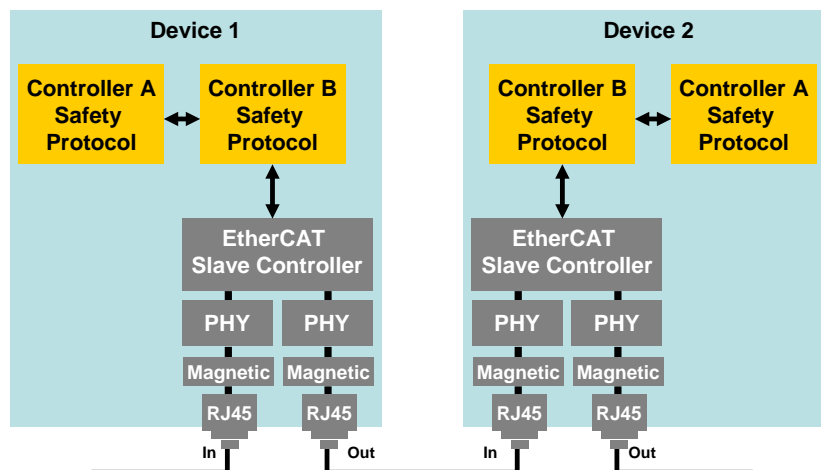
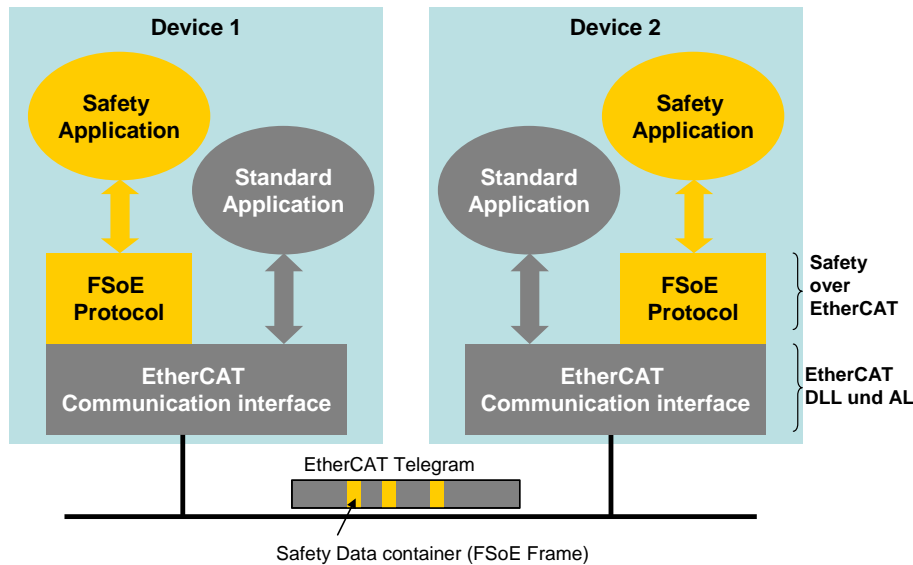


Figure 5: Hardware architecture

EtherCAT or any other communication interface like an internal backbone can be used.

For the processing of the FSoE protocol usually redundant microcontroller architecture is needed. Each microcontroller calculates the Safety-over-EtherCAT protocol; the results are cross-checked.

### 5.1.3 Software architecture



**Figure 6: Software architecture**

The FSoE protocol is processed upon the application layer of the communication interface.

For a safety-related software environment several self-test functions (e.g. memory tests, controller tests and peripheral tests) must be performed to detect dangerous errors. These requirements are outside the scope of the FSoE protocol – see IEC 61508 or appropriate product specific standards.

#### 5.1.4 Safety Manual

Implementers shall supply a safety manual, but meeting the following points at a minimum:

- The safety manual shall inform the users of constraints for calculation of system characteristics.
- The safety manual shall inform the users of their responsibilities of proper parameterization of the device.

In addition to the requirements of this clause the safety manual shall follow all requirements in the FSoE Policy and IEC 61508.

## 5.2 FSoE Conformance Test

For the approval of a conform implementation of the FSoE protocol an FSoE test case specification is available [12]. The TUV has approved the specification to be capable to test the conformance to the FSoE protocol.

Test cases for an FSoE Slave have been implemented based on the EtherCAT Conformance Test Tool. The implementation will be proved by TUV, too.

The test cases for an FSoE Master have not yet been implemented. The implementation of test cases for an FSoE Master specific development must be done manually or according to the developments' test environment.

### 5.3 Device approval

For the device approval the Procedure described in the Safety-over-EtherCAT Policy [3] shall be fulfilled.

### 5.4 Implementation Support

#### 5.4.1 Workshop and Training

Table 2: Workshop and Training

Description	Reference
<b>EtherCAT technology basics for developers TR8110</b> One day training class handles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EtherCAT Basics</li> <li>• Slave Structure</li> <li>• Physical Layer</li> <li>• Protocol</li> <li>• Application Layer features including device profiles</li> <li>• Distributed Clocks</li> <li>• Device description in XML format (ESI)</li> <li>• Master and slave implementation questions</li> </ul> Overview standards and references	<a href="http://www.ethercat.org">www.ethercat.org</a> → Events
<b>Safety-over-EtherCAT seminar</b> Decision makers, product managers as well as engineers who are involved in their companies' safety product strategy are invited to this seminar. A comprehensive overview about up-to-date requirements for safety machine architectures with the focus on safety communication with the Safety-over-EtherCAT protocol is given. Usually each 6 month, one day before the ETG Technical Committee Meeting.	<a href="http://www.ethercat.org">www.ethercat.org</a> → Events
<b>1 Day implementation Workshop</b> Introduction to the FSoE technology, 1 day seminar in Verl, Germany	comes with the License

#### 5.4.2 Technical Support

Technical support throughout the development process is provided by the EtherCAT Technology Group predominately by the headquarters in Germany, but also by the various ETG offices worldwide (depending on local capacity). If you need direct contact, please address your specific question to ETG (see contacts in clause 7.1).

### 5.5 Step by Step Implementation for an EtherCAT slave (FSoE Device Manufacturer)

The following approach of implementing FSoE for an existing EtherCAT slave device might look like:

- Attend the Safety-over-EtherCAT Seminar (for dates see [www.ethercat.org](http://www.ethercat.org) → Events)
- Download all relevant documentation (see Table 1)
- In addition take care at least of the following Safety standards:
  - IEC 61508 and IEC 61784-3
- Order a Safety-over-EtherCAT license (Slave)
- Attend the 1 Day Implementation Workshop (comes with the license)
- Use Safety over EtherCAT Conformance Test cases for the Conformance Test Tool (CTT) to test your device with the latest FSoE features implemented.
- System test, interoperability test (e.g. at an EtherCAT Plug Fest)
- Approve your integration by a notified body (see 5.3)

## 6 Frequently asked questions

### 1. Do I need a redundant EtherCAT Interface within my Safety-over-EtherCAT device?

No.

The Safety-over-EtherCAT protocol is implemented using a black channel approach; there is no safety related dependency to the standard communication interface. The communication interface such as controllers, ASICs, links, couplers, etc. remains unmodified.

### 2. Do I need redundant controller architecture for my Safety-over-EtherCAT device?

Usually yes.

Usually means, that common solutions use two Microcontrollers. In fact this is not demanded by the Safety-over-EtherCAT Specification. A protocol implementation must fulfill following requirements:

- complete fulfilment of IEC 61508 and IEC 61784-3
- complete fulfilment of the FSoE Protocol Specification
- complete fulfilment of the claimed safety level and corresponding product specific requirements.

### 3. Can I use Safety-over-EtherCAT via other communication systems than EtherCAT?

Yes.

Since the beginning in 2005 Safety-over-EtherCAT was open and independent of the underlying bus system. The communication path is arbitrary; it can be EtherCAT, a fieldbus system, Ethernet or similar paths, fibre optics, copper wires or even wireless transmission. There are no restrictions or requirements on bus coupler or other devices in the communication path.

### 4. Why is no certified Safety-over-EtherCAT stack available?

The Safety-over-EtherCAT specification is quite lean and the protocol state machine is well defined. The experience shows that an implementation can be done in very short time – often shorter than to adapt a certified stack that is not changeable in existing software architectures.

### 5. Is a Safety-over-EtherCAT conformance test available?

Yes.

For Safety-over-EtherCAT devices a Safety-over-EtherCAT test case specification exists and is approved by TUV. For Safety-over-EtherCAT Slaves those test cases are available for the EtherCAT Conformance Test Tool (CTT) so that an automated test can be performed. In general the automated test of a master stack is much more complex due to the flexible master configuration. Therefore the available test case specification can be used for the Master approval.

The Safety-over-EtherCAT Policy includes the overall Test procedure for a device approval.

### 6. Do I need an approval by a notified body (e.g. TUV, BGIA) for my Safety-over-EtherCAT device?

Yes.

The development of a device using the Safety-over-EtherCAT technology shall be assessed. The device approval includes a passed EMC report, the Safety-over-EtherCAT conformance approval and the overall safety lifecycle process approval according to IEC 61508 or appropriate product standards. The assessment shall be done by a notified body.

### 7. Why do I need a license to use the Safety-over-EtherCAT protocol within my device?

Safety-over-EtherCAT is a technology that is used by many device manufacturers. For such a technology the most important issue is compatibility! This ensures the safety integrity according to the approved Safety-over-EtherCAT specification but also – and this is of same importance – interoperability in the field. With the license the device manufacturer gets the right to implement the technology – but he has to do this compatible to the specification. This rule is part of the license agreement.

Machine builders and control system providers who use off-the-shelf Safety-over-EtherCAT devices do not need a license.

**8. How can I get and use the Safety-over-EtherCAT logo?**

The Safety-over-EtherCAT logo may only be used by vendors that hold a valid Safety-over-EtherCAT Device assessment and approval by a notified body. The Safety-over-EtherCAT Policy shall be fulfilled.

The Safety-over-EtherCAT logo can be obtained by the ETG Headquarters.

**9. I'm an EtherCAT master vendor. How can I support Safety-over-EtherCAT devices?**

If you just want to support off-the-shelf Safety-over-EtherCAT devices in the EtherCAT segment you do not need any safety-related implementation in the master. Safety-over-EtherCAT Master with an EtherCAT slave interface are available and can be used as safety logic devices.

Only slave-to-slave communication must be supported by the EtherCAT Master to route the safety frames from the Safety-over-EtherCAT Master to the Safety-over-EtherCAT Slaves and vice versa.

**10. I'm a machine builder. Do I need a license to use Safety-over-EtherCAT devices?**

No.

You can use off-the-shelf Safety-over-EtherCAT devices in the machine without a license.

You have to take care of the resulting Safety Integrity Level (SIL) or Performance Level (PL). Relevant standards (IEC 62061, ISO 13849) or product standards as well as compliance to other relevant standards, like national and international legal requirements (e.g. Directive of machinery, OSHA, UL etc.) must be fulfilled, of course.

## 7 Appendix

### 7.1 EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG)

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