

# Zephyr: Learnings from Working on Safety Certification in the Open

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The Linux Foundation

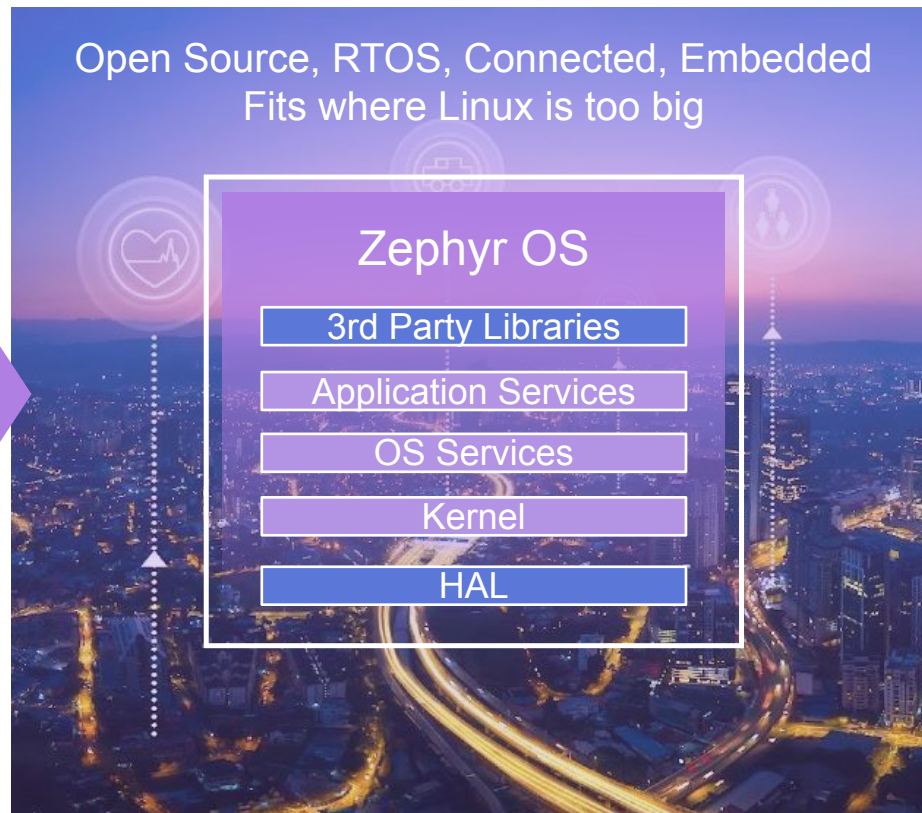
With thanks to Nicole Pappler,  
Stephane Parenti, Tobias Kästner,  
Simon Heim & Anas Nashif



# Zephyr Project



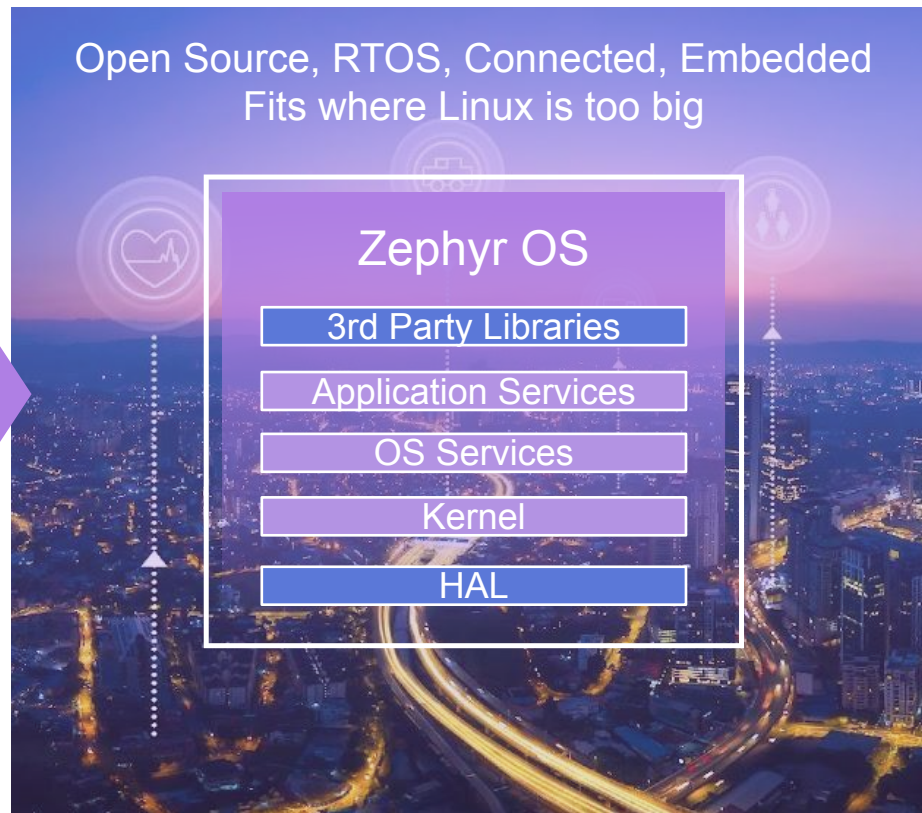
- **Open source** real time operating system
- **Developer friendly** with vibrant community participation
- Built with **safety and security** in mind
- **Broad SoC, board and sensor support.**
- **Vendor Neutral** governance
- **Permissively licensed** - Apache 2.0
- **Complete**, fully integrated, highly configurable, **modular** for **flexibility**
- **Product** development ready using LTS includes **security updates**



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# Safety & Security Focus From the Start



## Exhibit B

### **Zephyr Project Charter (the “Charter”)**

The Linux Foundation  
Updated August 21, 2023

#### **1. Mission of the Zephyr Project (“Zephyr,” or, alternatively, the “Project”).**

The mission of the Project is to:

- a. deliver the best-in-class RTOS for connected resource-constrained devices, built to be **secure and safe.**
- b. maintain an auditable code base, while taking advantage of community participation; this auditable code base is open source;
- c. include participation of leading members of this ecosystem, including micro-controller manufacturers, hardware developers, software developers and other members of the ecosystem; and
- d. host the infrastructure for the open source Project and sub-projects, establishing a neutral home for community meetings, events and collaborative discussions and providing structure around the business and technical governance of the Project.

Source:

<https://zephyrproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/LF-Zephyr-Charter-2023.08.21.pdf>

# Safety and Security Focus From the Start



## Exhibit B

### Zephyr Project Charter (the “Charter”)

The List  
Updated

#### 7. Safety Committee

##### 1. Mission of the Zephyr Project (“Ze

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- a. deliver the best-in-class RTOS to be secure and safe.
- b. maintain an auditable code base with community participation; this auditable code base shall be open to all members of the ecosystem; and
- c. include participation of leading controller manufacturers, hardware manufacturers, and other members of the ecosystem; and
- d. host the infrastructure for the open source project as a neutral home for community members, providing structure around the

a. Composition – the Safety Committee members shall consist of:

i. one appointed voting representative from each Platinum Member, plus

ii. non-voting Silver Member representatives who shall not count towards quorum.

b. Responsibilities – the Safety Committee shall be responsible for:

i. the definition of the processes to ensure an auditable code base, as well as any associated certification artifacts (“Safety Artifacts”);

ii. annually elect a Representative on the Safety Committee to serve as chair of the Safety Committee; and

iii. annually elect a safety architect (the “Safety Architect”) , who may be different from the chair of the Safety Committee.



# So what does Zephyr mean by Safety?



**Safety** – the freedom from unacceptable risk of physical injury or of damage to the health of people, either directly, or indirectly as a result of damage to property or to the environment

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## Zephyr will focus on "Functional Safety"

- the part of safety that depends on a system or equipment operating correctly in response to its inputs
- Detecting potentially dangerous conditions, resulting either in the activation of a protective or corrective device or mechanisms to prevent hazardous events or in providing mitigation measures to reduce the consequences of the hazardous event.

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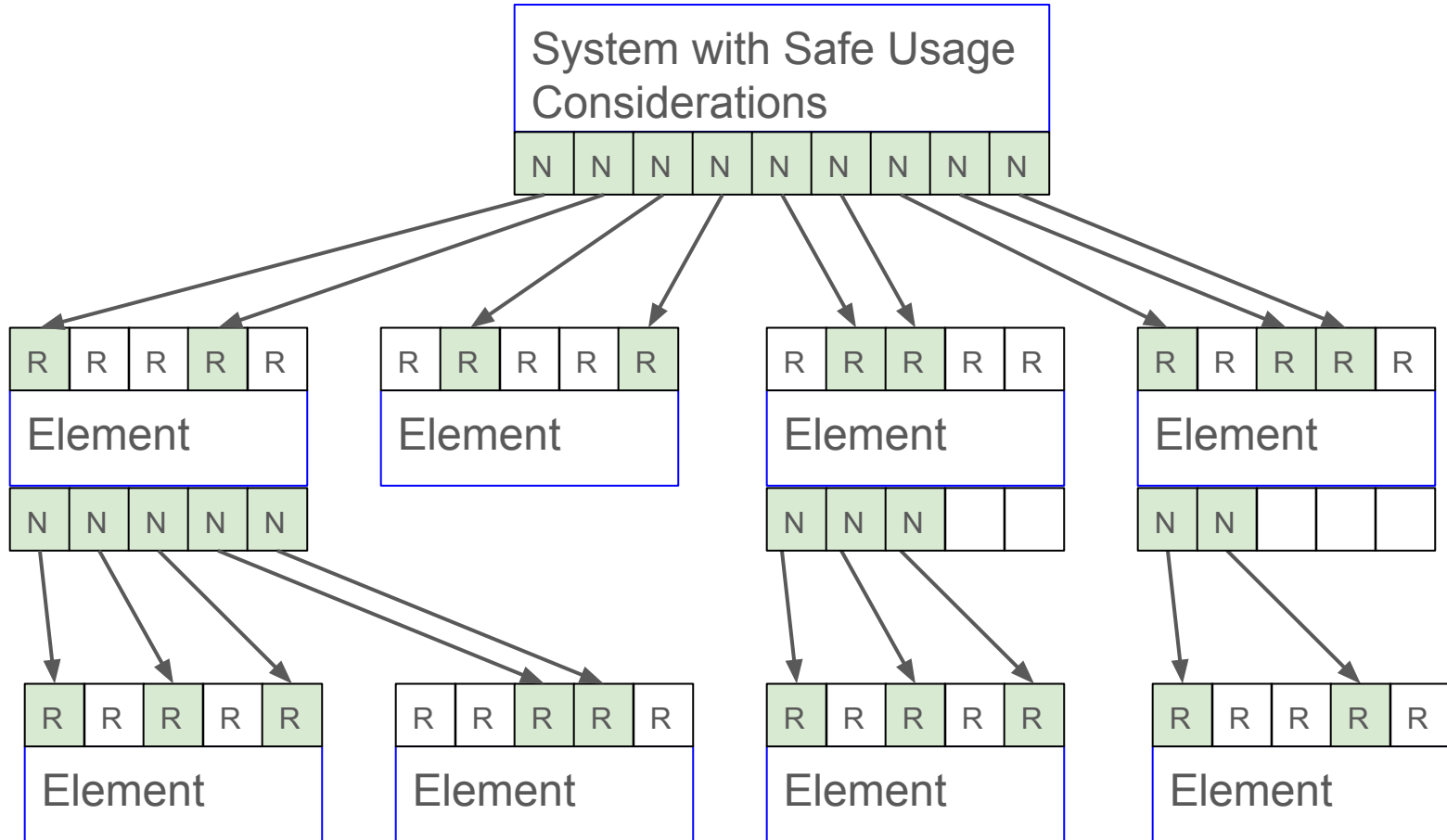
# "depends on a system" ?

**Systematic capability** is the general assumption, that

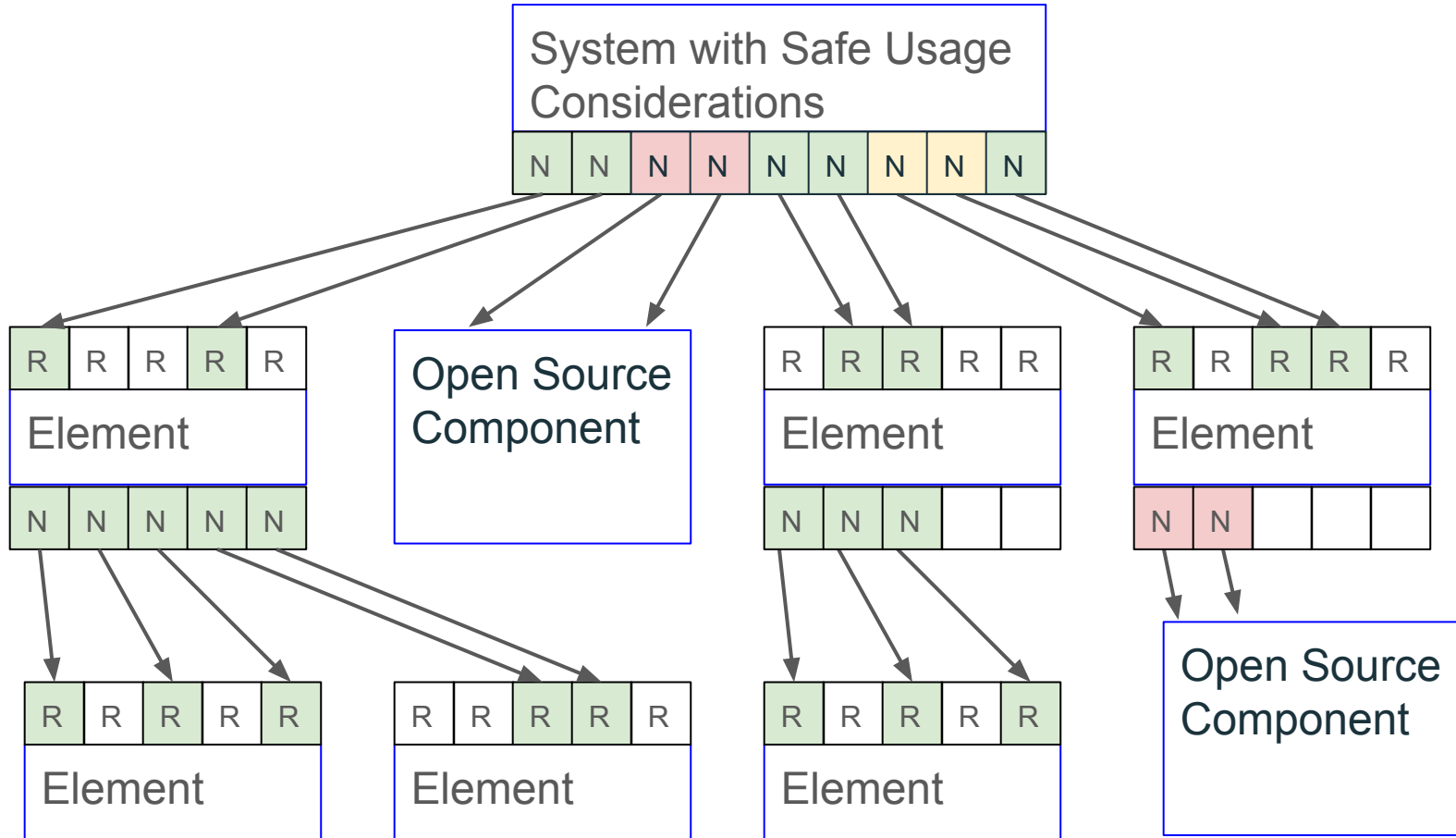
- if development, test and deployment of a system follow a specific set of tasks and
- there is evidence for adherence to these tasks
- (and under the assumption that the system architecture supports safety)

⇒ **Software is capable of performing as intended**

# Analyzing a System for Safe Usage

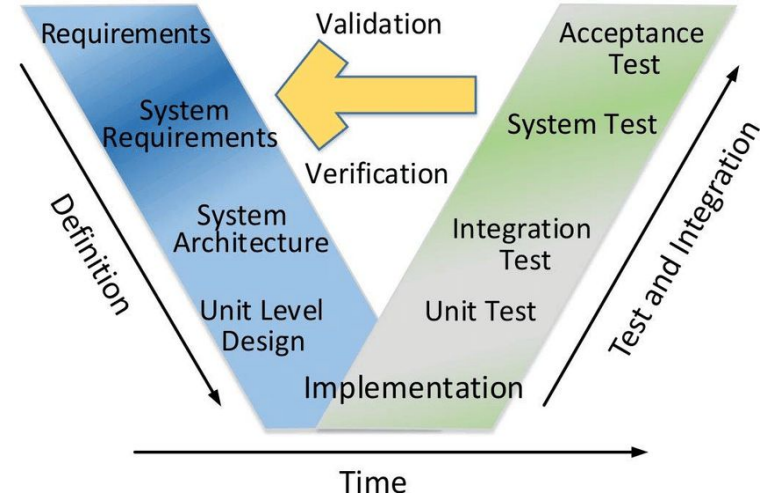


# Analyzing a System with Open Source?



# Safety Engineering 101: the "V-Model"

- The V-model for functional safety development originated from systems engineering practices to structure the process of designing and validating complex systems.
- It was later adapted and widely adopted in the automotive industry and other safety-critical sectors as a framework for ensuring the systematic integration of safety requirements and processes throughout each stage of the development lifecycle.
  - **ISO 26262** in the automotive industry
  - **IEC 61508** for industrial systems
  - **DO-178C** in aerospace

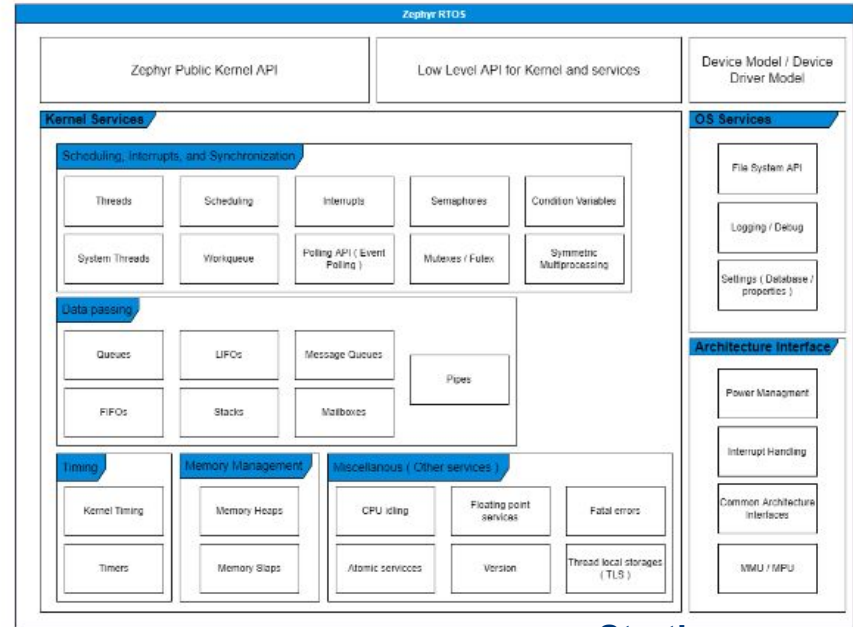


Source Image image provided under CC-4.0  
[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-functional-safety-development-via-V-model-14\\_fig4\\_362572593](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-functional-safety-development-via-V-model-14_fig4_362572593)

# Zephyr Initial Certification Focus



- Start with a limited scope of kernel and interfaces
- Initial target is IEC 61508 SIL 3 / SC 3 (IEC 61508-3, 7.4.2.12, Route 3s)
- Option for 26262 certification has been included in contract with certification authority should there be sufficient member interest



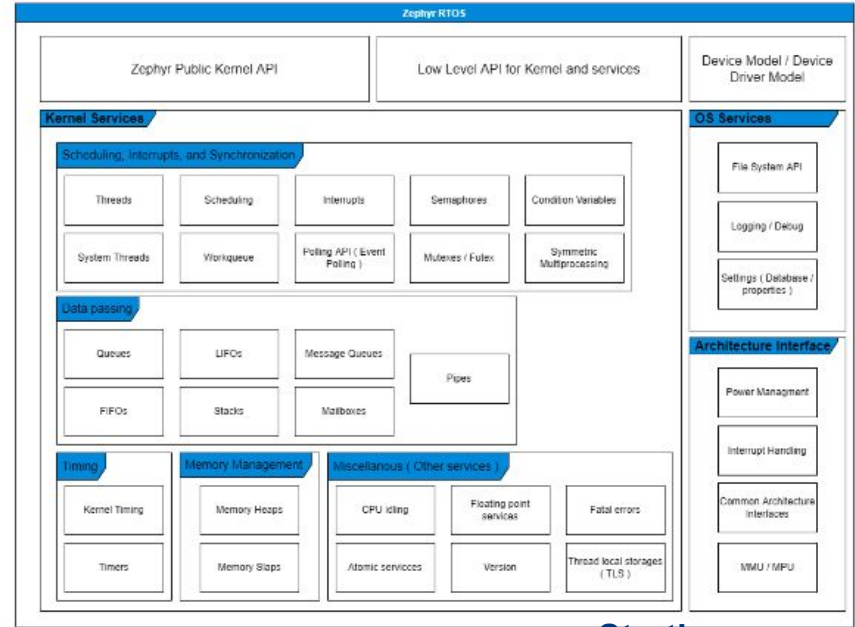
Starting scope

**Scope** can be **extended** to include **additional components** with associated **requirements** and **traceability** as determined by the safety committee

# Zephyr Initial Certification Focus



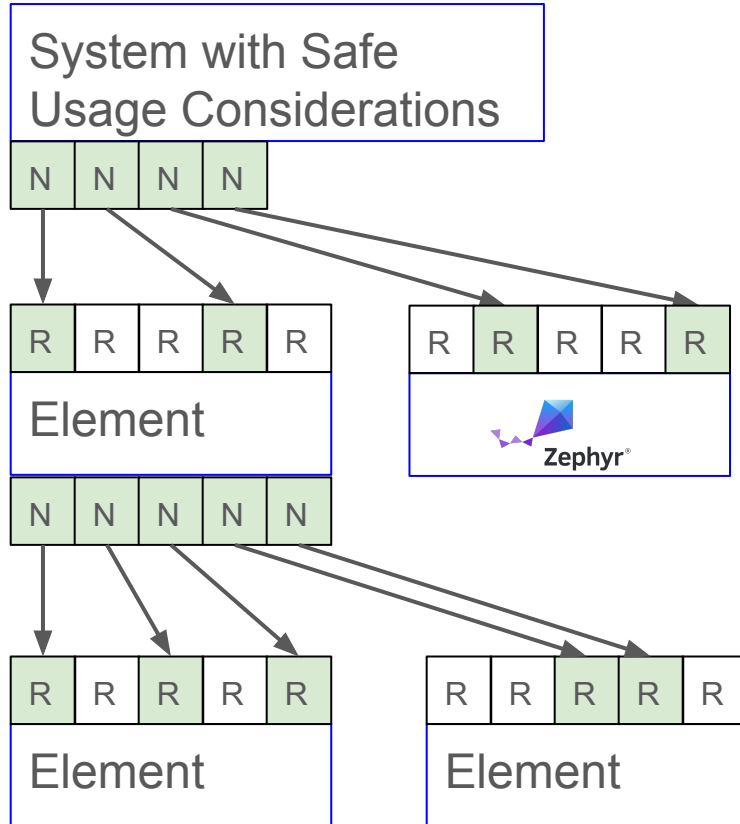
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# Safety Element out of Context - SEooC

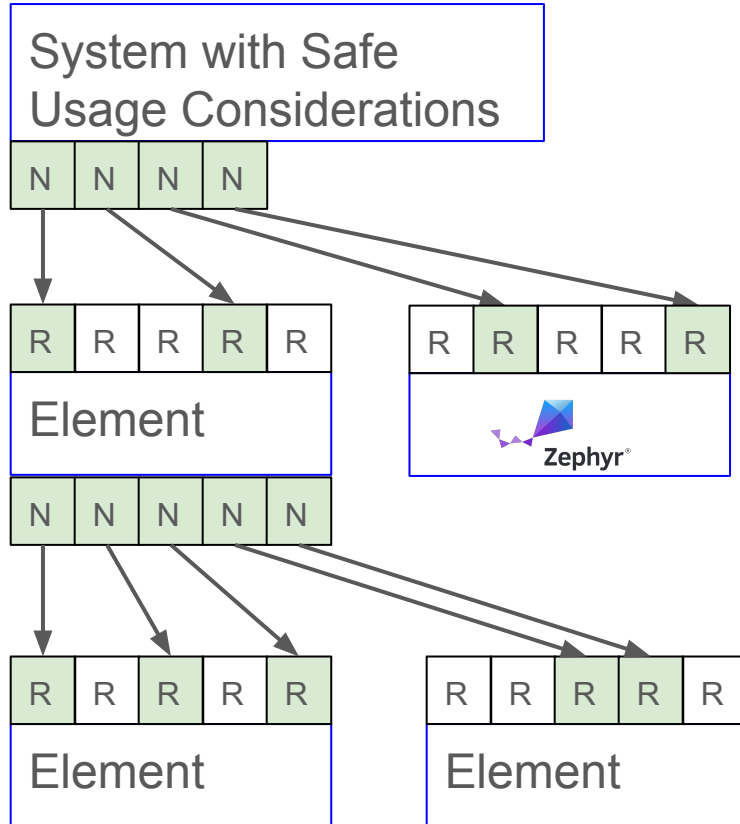


Development and verification independent of a specific context or application

Provides integration and operation information for safe system integration

Comes with sufficient evidence, that it can be integrated to a safety relevant system.

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# Systemic Capability for Safety



## IEC 61508-3, Clause 7.4.2.12

“Where a pre-existing software element is reused to implement all or part of a safety function, the element shall meet both requirements a) and b) below for systematic safety integrity:

- a) Meet the requirements of one of the following compliance routes:
  - Route 1s: compliant development. Compliance with the requirements of this standard for the avoidance and control of systematic faults in software;
  - Route 2s: proven in use. Provide evidence that the element is proven in use. See 7.4.10 of IEC 61508-2;
  - Route 3s: assessment of non-compliant development. Compliance with 7.4.2.13

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# Systemic Capability for Safety



## IEC 61508-3, Clause 7.4.2.13

To comply with Route 3s a pre-existing software element shall meet all of the following requirements a) to i)

- a) The software safety requirement specification for the element [...] shall be documented to the same degree of precision as would be required by this standard for any safety related element of the same systematic capability [...]



⇒ Creation of System and Software Specification

# Systemic Capability for Safety



## IEC 61508-3, Clause 7.4.2.13

To comply with Route 3s a pre-existing software element shall meet all of the following requirements a) to i)

- b) The justification for use of a software element shall provide evidence that the desired safety properties specified [...] have been considered [...].



⇒ Definition of the Safety Claims

⇒ Traceability to requirements, code and tests

# Systemic Capability for Safety

## IEC 61508-3, Clause 7.4.2.13

To comply with Route 3s a pre-existing software element shall meet all of the following requirements a) to i)

- c) The element's design shall be documented to a degree of precision, sufficient to provide evidence of compliance with the requirement specification and the required systematic capability. [...]The justification for use of a software element shall provide evidence that the desired safety properties specified [...] have been considered [...].

# Systemic Capability for Safety



## IEC 61508-3, Clause 7.4.2.13

To comply with Route 3s a pre-existing software element shall meet all of the following requirements a) to i)

- d) The evidence required in 7.4.2.13 a) and b) shall cover the software's integration with the hardware. [...]



- ⇒ use the existing tests
- ⇒ establishing traceability
- ⇒ enhancing coverage as needed

# Systemic Capability for Safety

## IEC 61508-3, Clause 7.4.2.13

To comply with Route 3s a pre-existing software element shall meet all of the following requirements a) to i)

- e) There shall be evidence that the element has been subject to verification and validation using a systematic approach with documented testing and review of all parts of the element's design and code [...]



- ⇒ use the existing tests
- ⇒ establishing traceability
- ⇒ enhancing coverage as needed

# Systemic Capability for Safety

## IEC 61508-3, Clause 7.4.2.13

To comply with Route 3s a pre-existing software element shall meet all of the following requirements a) to i)

- f) Where the software element provides functions which are not required in the safety related system, then evidence shall be provided that the unwanted functions will not prevent the E/EE/EP system from meeting its safety requirements.



⇒ Providing a defined safety scope definition

# Systemic Capability for Safety



## IEC 61508-3, Clause 7.4.2.13

To comply with Route 3s a pre-existing software element shall meet all of the following requirements a) to i)

- g) There shall be evidence that all credible failure mechanisms of the software element have been identified and that appropriate mitigation measures have been implemented.



⇒ creating requirements

⇒ establishing traceability to code & tests

# Systemic Capability for Safety



## IEC 61508-3, Clause 7.4.2.13

To comply with Route 3s a pre-existing software element shall meet all of the following requirements a) to i)

- h) The planning for use of the element shall identify the configuration of the software element, the software and hardware run-time environment and if necessary the configuration of the compilation / linking system.



⇒ information that will be discussed in the Safety Manual

# Systemic Capability for Safety

## IEC 61508-3, Clause 7.4.2.13

To comply with Route 3s a pre-existing software element shall meet all of the following requirements a) to i)

- i) The justification for use of the element shall be valid only those applications which respect the assumptions made in the [...] safety manual [...]



⇒ creation of the Safety Manual

# Systemic Capability for Safety



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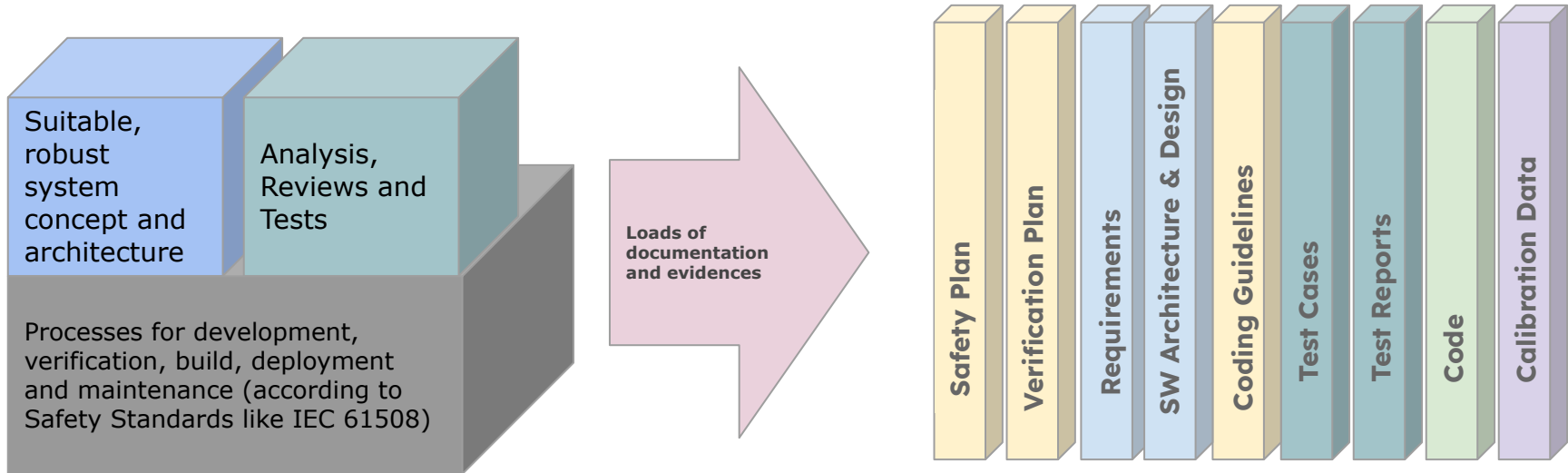
b) provides a safety manual [...]

⇒ creation of the Safety Manual



# What is Functional Safety aiming for ?

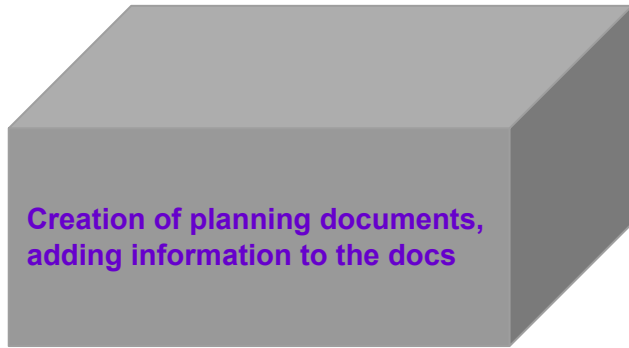
## Safety Architecture and Documentation



# How is the Zephyr Project addressing this?



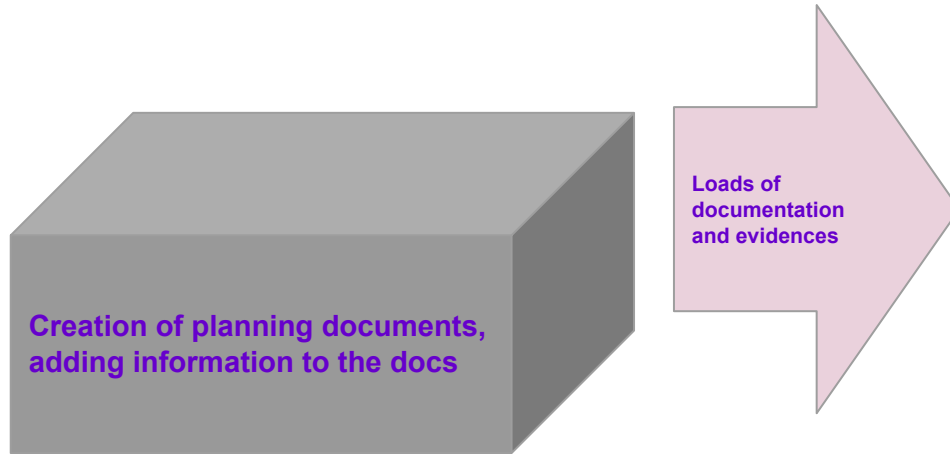
Following Route 3s by creating the missing work products



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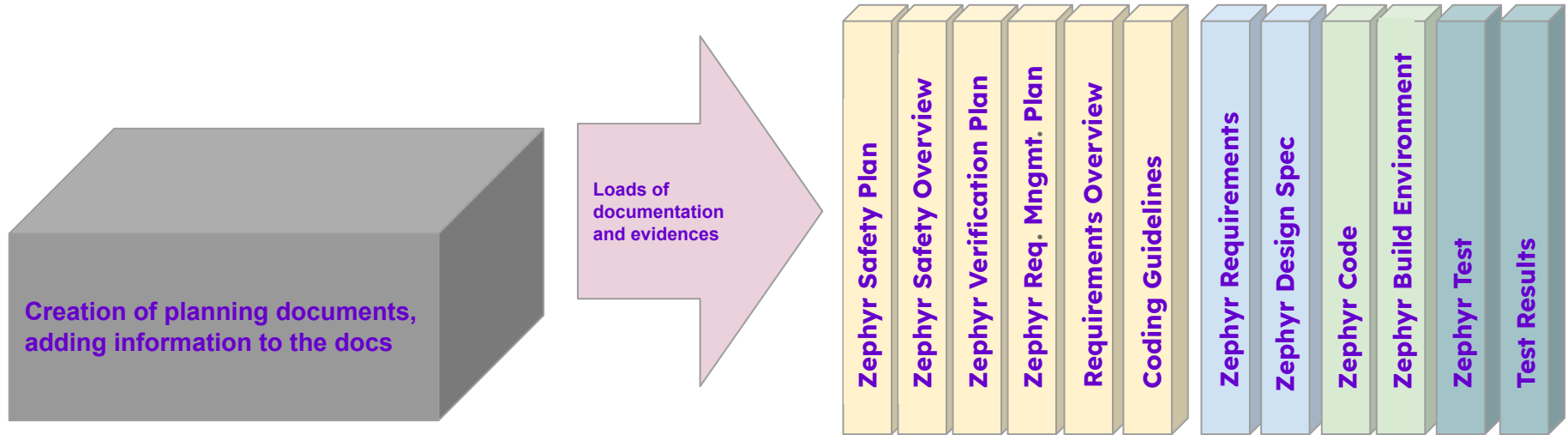
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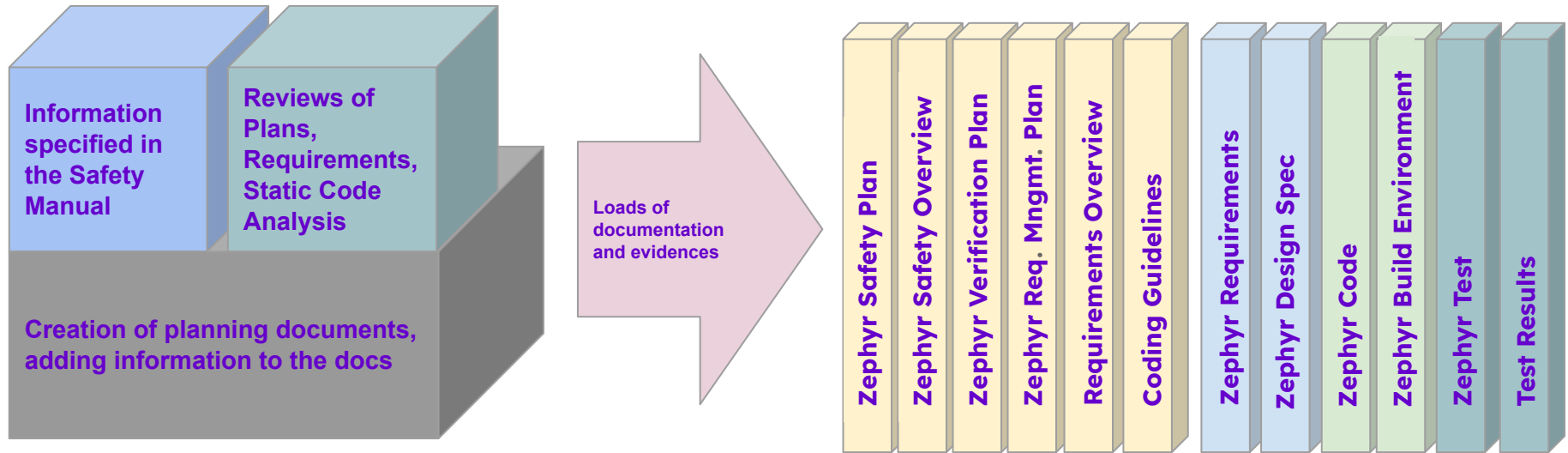
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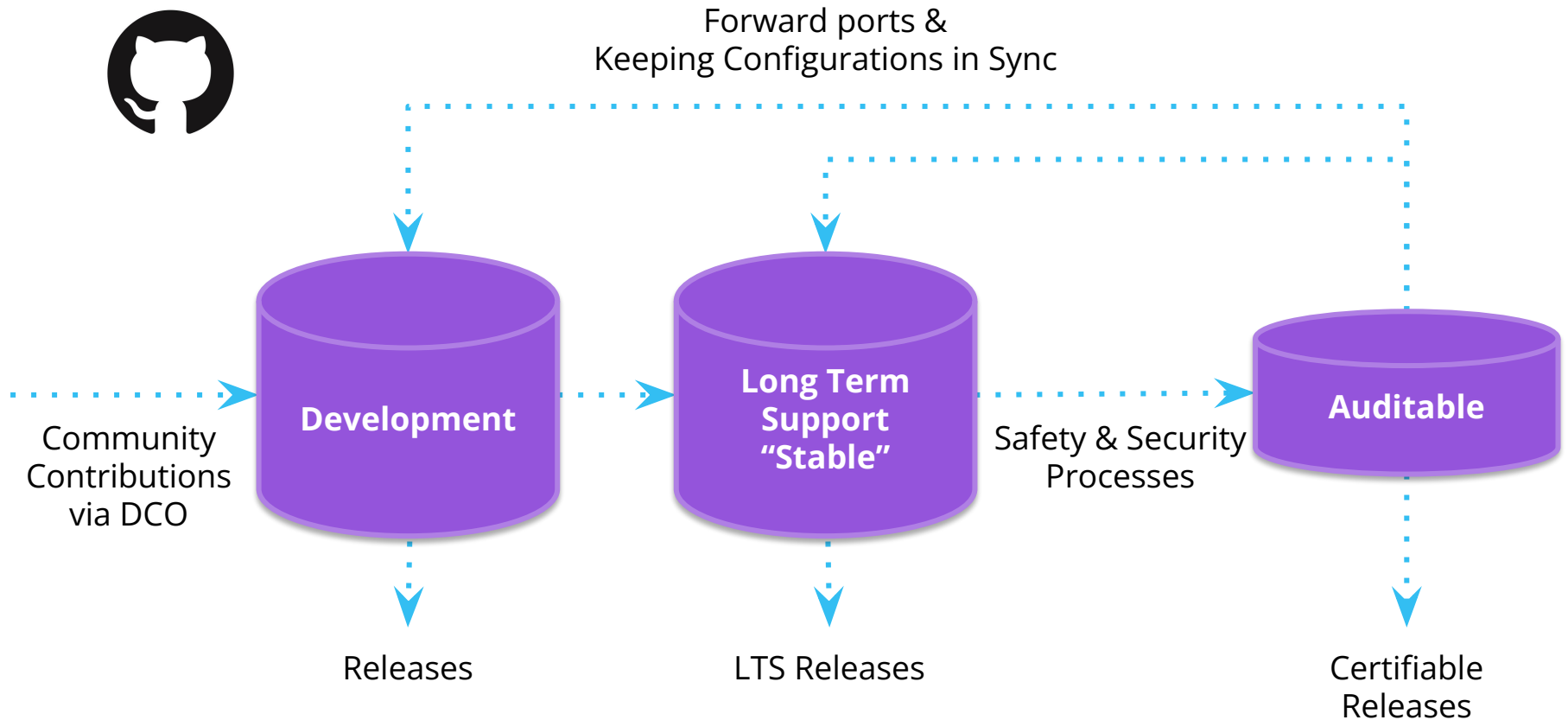
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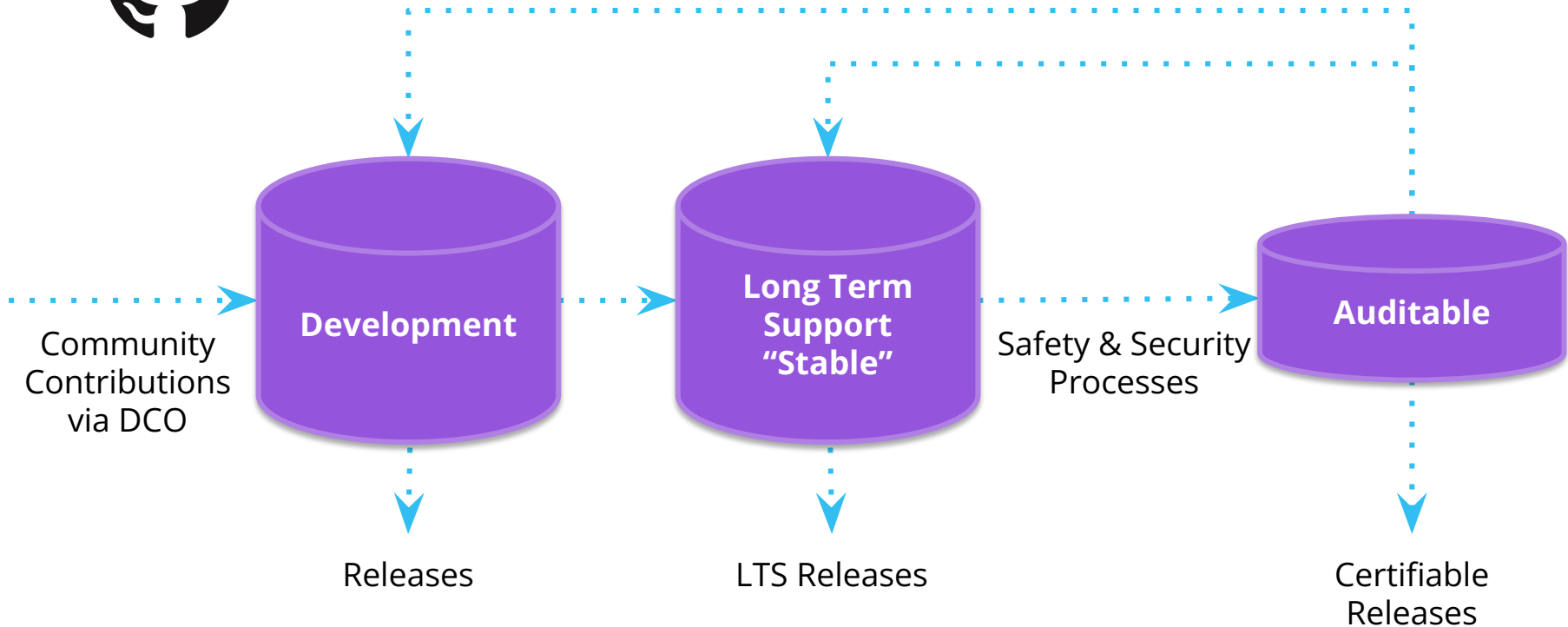
# Conceptual Repositories



# Introduce Traceability on "Development"



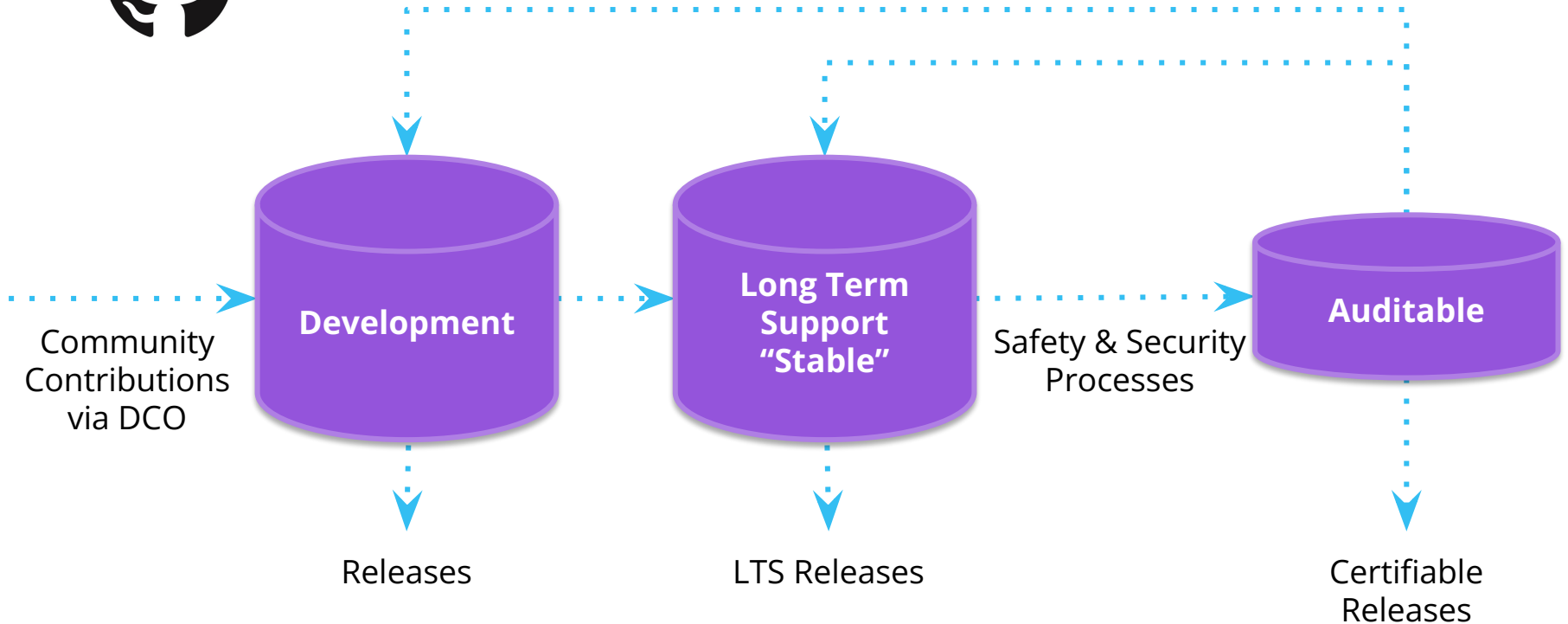
Forward ports &  
Keeping Configurations in Sync



# "Auditable" subset of "Development"



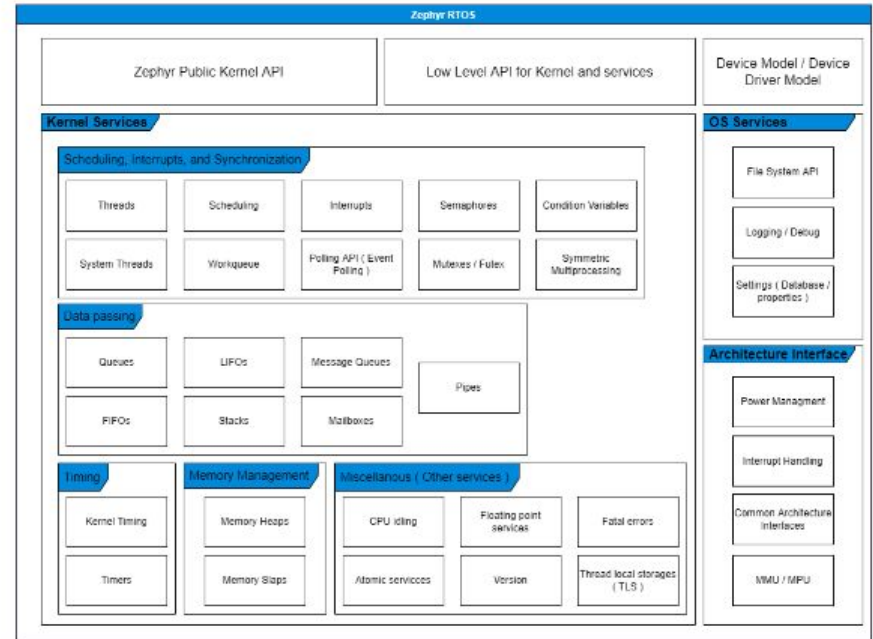
Forward ports &  
Keeping Configurations in Sync



# Zephyr Initial Certification Focus



- Start with a limited scope of kernel and interfaces - aka "**Auditable**"
- Need to be able to maintain it with security fixes over time - "**Auditable**" set expected to be associated with a specific "**Long Term Support**" release



Starting scope

Scope can be **extended** to include **additional components** with associated **requirements** and **traceability** as determined by the safety committee

# Zephyr Development: Rate of Change

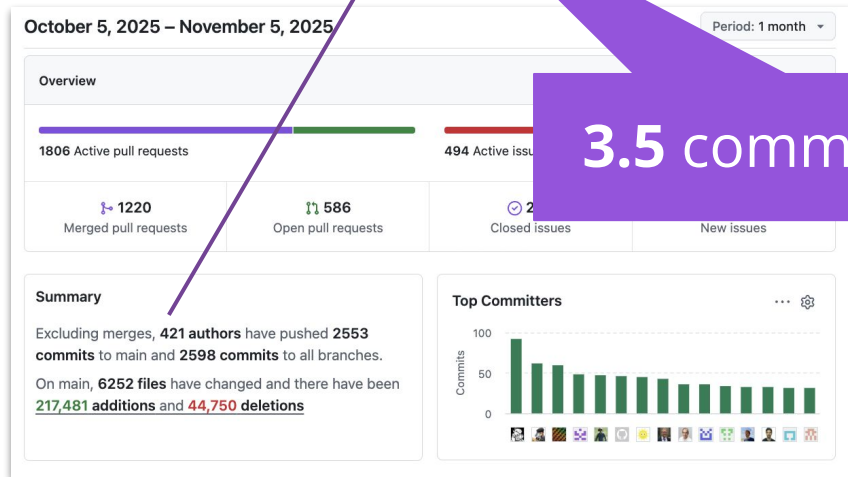


<https://github.com/zephyrproject-rtos/zephyr>

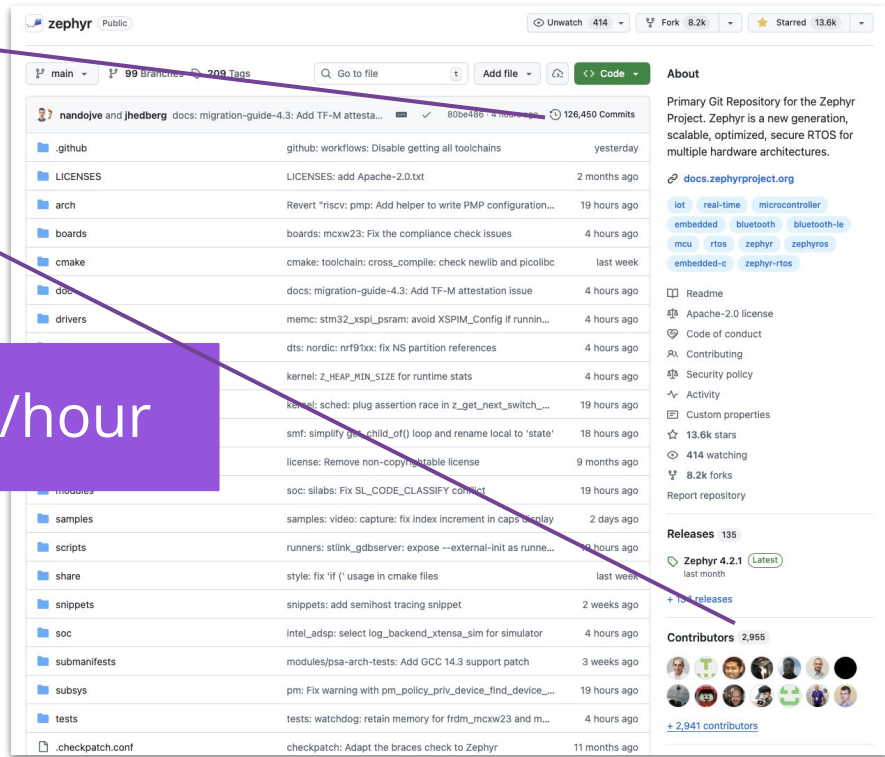
- Total commits: 126,450
- Total contributors: 2,955

<https://github.com/zephyrproject-rtos/zephyr/pulse/monthly>

- Monthly contributors: 421
- Monthly commits: 2,598



3.5 commits/hour



# Lessons Learned from First Attempt



- **All changes and enhancements need to go to Upstream Development**
  - Initial attempt at alignment with Coding Guidelines ( MISRA, etc.) was on an LTS.
  - Redoing each release wasn't practical, so recognized need to be upstream.
- **Need buy in from Upstream Maintainers on Methodology & Processes**
  - TSC, Process and Testing Workgroups are key stakeholders and need to participate to shape a practical path that the project can adhere to.
- **Need Open Community Participating to Scale**
  - Committee sets scope to apply funding to
  - Others should be able to apply same methodology on different scope (and hopefully contribute back to project upstream)

# Open Up Creating the Work Products



## Safety Committee Role

- Safety Certification strategy decisions
  - Scope of certification
  - Certification standards
  - Certification timeline
- Assessment and audit specific tasks
- Owner of certification artefacts
- **Participation limited** to the project's platinum members, the safety architect, the safety chair, functional safety manager and project staff

## Safety Working Group Role

- Creating/deriving and documenting the requirements for project code
- Establishing traceability between requirements, code and relevant tests
- Extending testing coverage as needed
- Setting up requirements management tooling
- Working on the creation of the required documentation and evidence
- **Open to everyone to participate**

# Work Product Strategy

Strategy for artefact creation:

- use developer friendly tooling
- use known workflows on GitHub
- reuse as much as we can from the [docs.zephyrproject.org](https://docs.zephyrproject.org)

## Enhancements to project documentation

- Sphinx in [docs.zephyrproject.org](https://docs.zephyrproject.org)

## New artefacts ⇒ [StrictDoc](#)

- Requirements
- Safety Plan
- Safety Manual
- ...

## Evidence ⇒ [StrictDoc](#)

- Assessments
- Checklists
- ...

# Compliance with Coding Standards



Project already has defined [Coding Guidelines](#) derived from MISRA rules and CERT-C references

Identification of Coding Guideline violations and adaption of the code

- Initially done by Bugseng on a separate branch
- Work merged to the main branch of "Development" in 2024

Static Analysis in the CI to check for adherence on each patch integrated into workflow via commercial tool "[ECLAIR](#)" from Bugseng

## Coding Guidelines

### Main rules

The coding guideline rules are based on MISRA-C 2012 and are a **subset** of MISRA-C. The subset is listed in the table below with a summary of the rules, its severity and the equivalent rules from other standards for reference.

#### Note

For existing Zephyr maintainers and collaborators, if you are unable to obtain a copy through your employer, a limited number of copies will be made available through the project. If you need a copy of MISRA-C 2012, please send email to [safety@lists.zephyrproject.org](mailto:safety@lists.zephyrproject.org) and provide details on reason why you can't obtain one through other options and expected contributions once you have one. The safety committee will review all requests.

Main rules

Zephyr rule	Description	MISRA-C 2012 rule	MISRA-C severity	CERT C reference
1	Any implementation-defined behaviour on which the output of the program depends shall be documented and understood	<a href="#">Dir 1.1</a>	Required	<a href="#">MSC09-C</a>
2	All source files shall compile without any compilation errors	<a href="#">Dir 2.1</a>	Required	N/A
3	All code shall be traceable to documented requirements	<a href="#">Dir 3.1</a>	Required	N/A
4	Run-time failures shall be minimized	<a href="#">Dir 4.1</a>	Required	N/A
5	All usage of assembly language should be documented	<a href="#">Dir 4.2</a>	Advisory	N/A
6	Sections of code should not be "commented out"	<a href="#">Dir 4.4</a>	Advisory	<a href="#">MSC04-C</a>
7	Identifiers in the same name space with overlapping visibility should be typographically unambiguous	<a href="#">Dir 4.5</a>	Advisory	<a href="#">DCL02-C</a>
8	typedefs that indicate size and signedness should be used in place of the basic numerical types	<a href="#">Dir 4.6</a>	Advisory	N/A

# Lessons Learned in Current Path



- Work with those interested in collaborating with you.
  - **Open Source:**
    - StrictDoc maintainer engaged in evolving tool to work with our needs. Working regularly with Safety Manager and Safety Architect on including project needs into tool requirements.
    - SPDX community willing to evolve specification for required metadata for continuous compliance via Safety Profile
  - **Commercial:**
    - Bugseng willing to prototype with us that tool could be integrated into workflow via trial licenses, before project signed contract in late 2025. Safety Architect & TSC Steering Committee Chair active in proving prototype.

# Systematic Capability for Safety

To achieve Route 3s for an SEooC:

- Create and establish enough evidence for planning, process and adherence to defined techniques (Functional Safety Management: plans, guidelines, tooling application)
- Create accompanying documentation to enable usage of the safety scope (Safety Manual)
- Provide code that is
  - Compliant with the coding guidelines of the project
  - Described by requirements, architecture and design
  - Sufficiently tested
- Achieve a 3rd party certification for IEC 61508 SIL 3

# Zephyr Approach for route 3s:

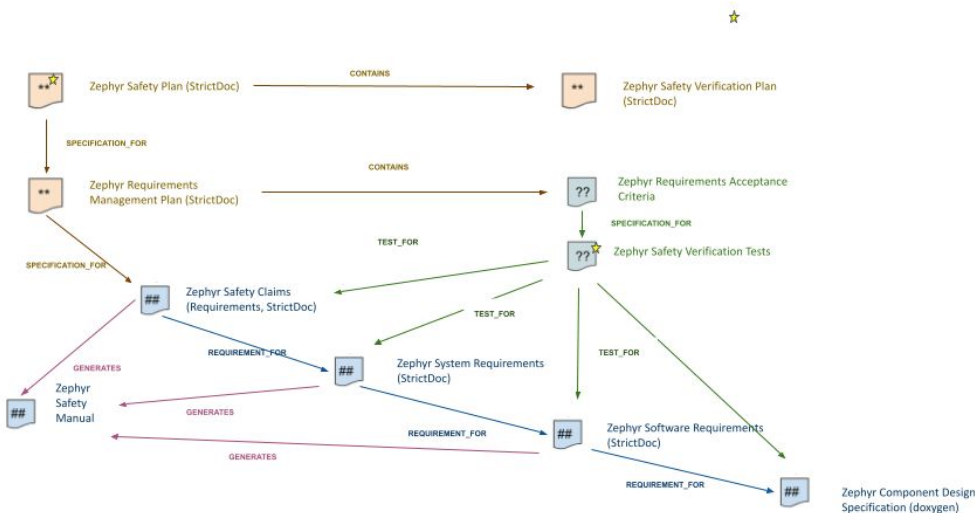


- Creation of plans and process documentation
- Define the safety scope
- Definition of safety claims, traceability to requirements, code and tests
- Reusing as much of the existing documentation as possible
- Use existing tests, create traceability, analysis and close coverage gaps
- Create a Safety Manual

# Zephyr Work Product Structure

Principles of creating the documentation:

- Use developer friendly tooling
- Use known workflows on GitHub
- Reuse as much as we can from the docs



➡ New documents like Safety Plan, Safety Manual, Requirements: [StrictDoc](#)

➡ Enhancement of the community documentation in the Docs: Sphinx

➡ Assessment evidences & checklist: [StrictDoc](#)

# Status Today



- Coding Guidelines established based on MISRA rules and applied
- Static Analysis tooling to check for adherence to Guidelines selected and being deployed for future contributions
- Reference Requirements and Traceability started in the code base. Working on visible end-to-end example
- Automatic human readable documentation of requirements from StrictDoc rules is available

A screenshot of a web-based documentation interface for Zephyr software requirements. The breadcrumb trail at the top reads "Zephyr Project Requirements / Zephyr Software Requirements / Document". The left sidebar shows a tree view of the requirements structure, with "Zephyr Software Requirements" expanded to show sub-sections like "Hardware Architecture Interface", "C library", "Device Driver API", "Exception and Error Handling", "System Initialization", "File system", "Interrupts", "Logging", "Memory protection", "Memory Objects", and "Data Passing". The main content area displays a requirement titled "1.2. Thread Context Switching". The requirement details are as follows:

**1.2. Thread Context Switching**

UID: ZEP-SRS-19-2

STATUS: Draft

TYPE: Functional

COMPONENT: Hardware Architecture Interface

PARENTS: ← ZEP-SYRS-1 Architecture Layer Interface

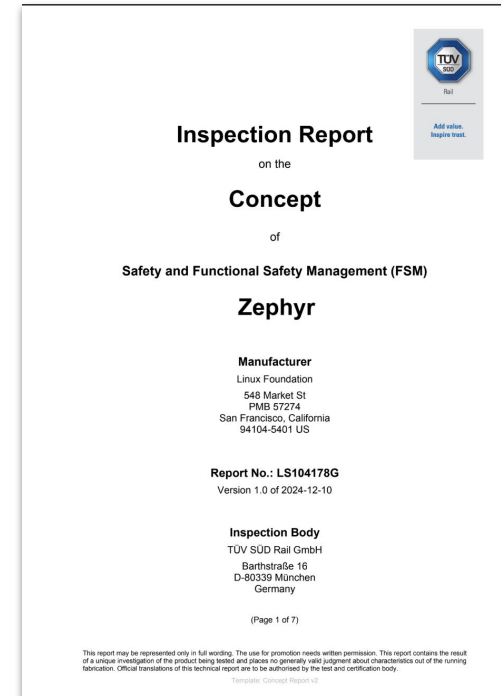
STATEMENT: The Zephyr RTOS shall provide a mechanism for context switching between threads.

USER\_STORY: As a Zephyr RTOS user I want to execute code concurrently in one or more threads and when interrupted at a code location in a thread, to continue at the very same location.

# Status Today



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- Static Analysis tooling to check for adherence to Guidelines selected for future contributions
- Reference Requirements and Traceability started in the code base
- Automatic human readable documentation of requirements from StrictDoc rules is available
- **Formal concept approval and Phase 1 is complete ... on to Phase 2**



# Safety Assessment & Certification Plan



## Phase 1 - Concept Phase

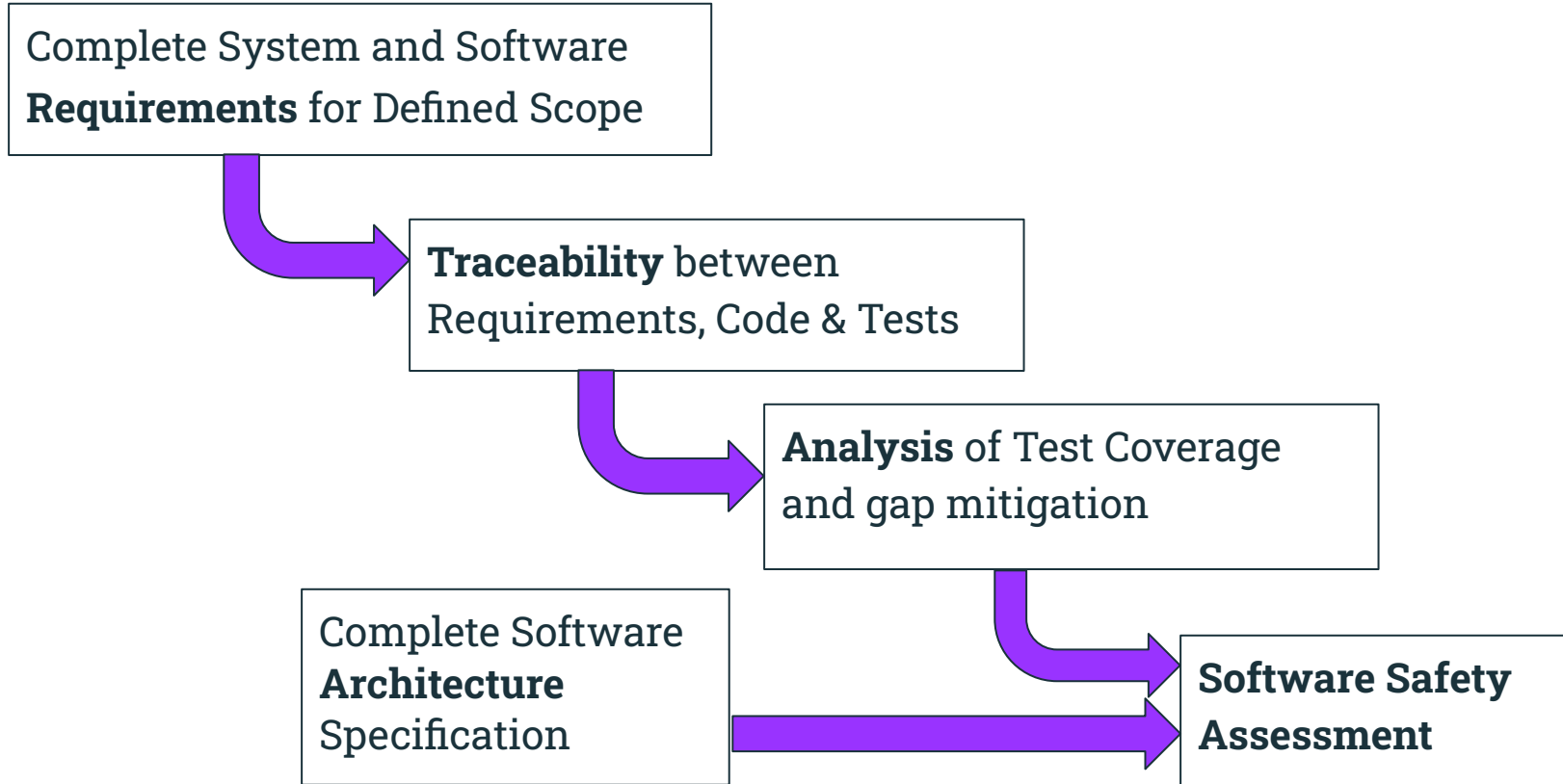
**Approval** of the overall plans and strategy, scope and high level requirements & architecture

## Phase 2 - Detailed Phase

Filling the gaps:

- Completeness of requirements
- Safety Analysis
- Traceability
- Verification & Test Coverage

# Critical Path to Phase 2



# Critical Path: Requirement & Traceability



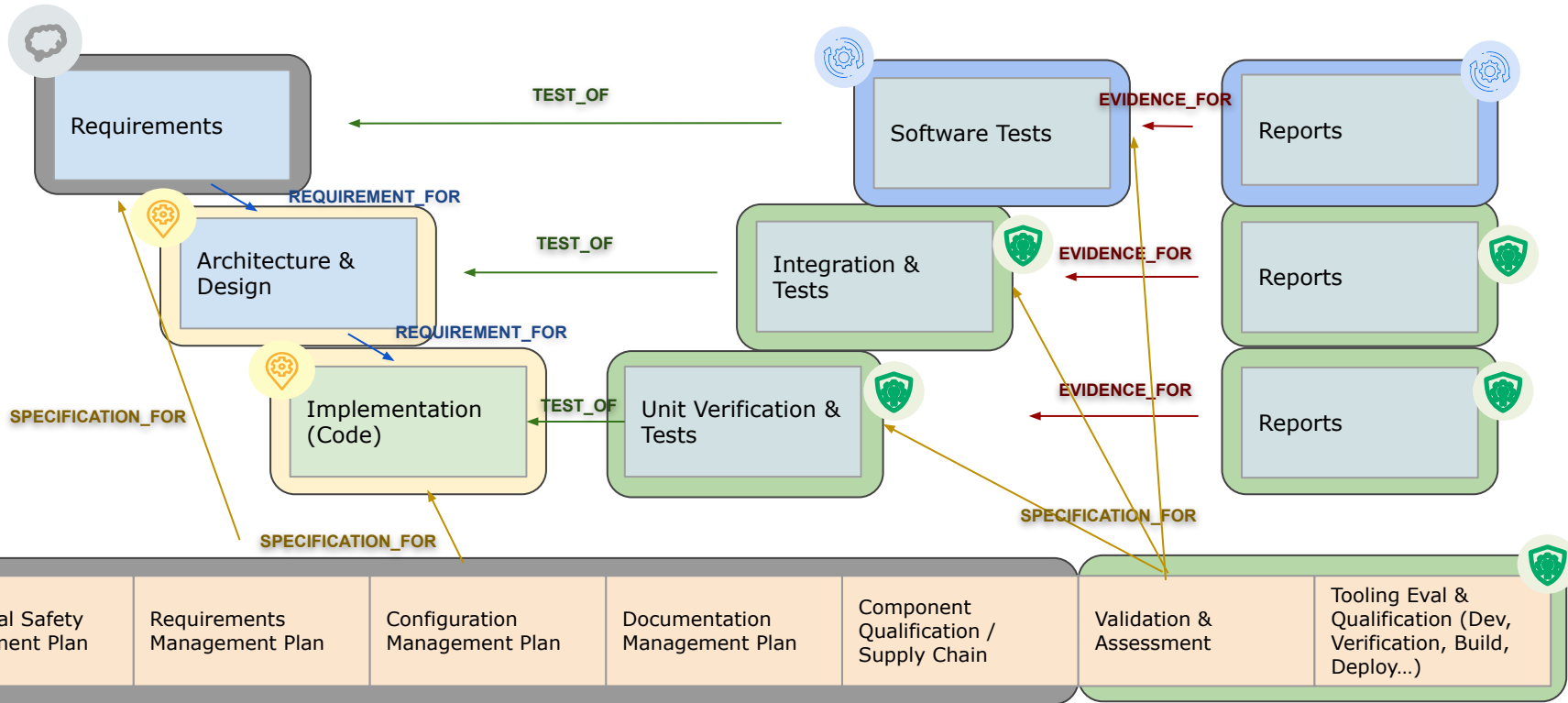
- Established hierarchical structure of requirements
- Capturing the requirements in StrictDoc which is working towards import/export of SPDX
- Capturing the plans in StrictDoc where each planning item (like Safety Plan) is tracked as a requirement
- Capturing the assessment checklist in StrictDoc where each checkpoint is a requirement, tracing to the Zephyr's evidences

A screenshot of a GitHub web interface showing a file named 'condition\_variables.sdoc' in the 'software\_requirements' directory. The file content is a StrictDoc document with the following structure:

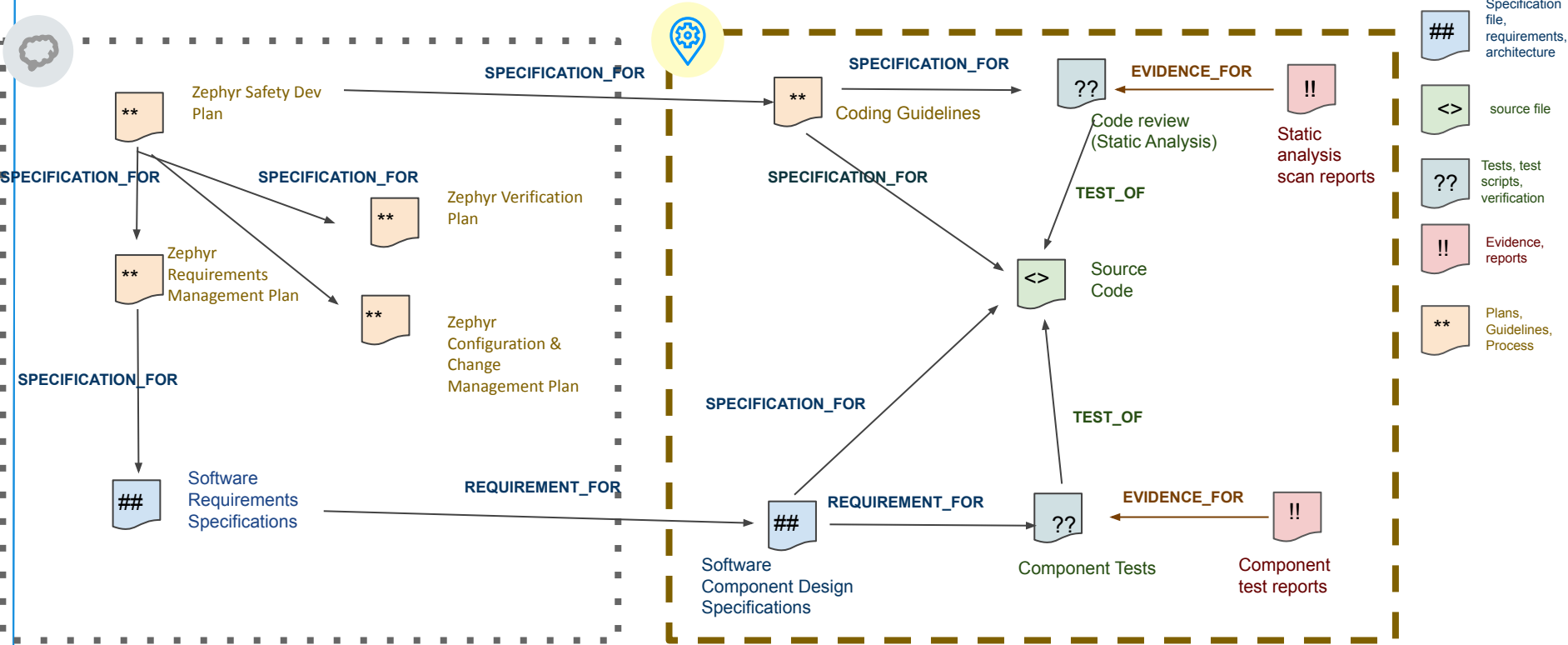
```
1 [DOCUMENT]
2 TITLE: Condition Variables
3 REQ_PREFIX: ZEP-SRS-21-
4
5 [GRAMMAR]
6 IMPORT_FROM_FILE: software_requirements.sgra
7
8 [REQUIREMENT]
9 UID: ZEP-SRS-21-1
10 STATUS: Draft
11 TYPE: Functional
12 COMPONENT: Condition Variables
13 TITLE: Dynamic initialization of condition variables
14 STATEMENT: >>>
15 The Zephyr RTOS shall provide a mechanism to define and initialize a condition variable dynamically (at runtime).
16 <<<
17 RELATIONS:
18 - TYPE: Parent
19   VALUE: ZEP-SYRS-20
20
21 [REQUIREMENT]
22 UID: ZEP-SRS-21-2
23 STATUS: Draft
24 TYPE: Functional
25 COMPONENT: Condition Variables
26 TITLE: Static initialization of condition variables
27 STATEMENT: >>>
28 The Zephyr RTOS shall provide a mechanism to define and initialize a condition variable statically (at compile time).
29 <<<
30 RELATIONS:
31 - TYPE: Parent
32   VALUE: ZEP-SYRS-20
```

**Why do we need requirements and traceability between requirements to the code and tests?**

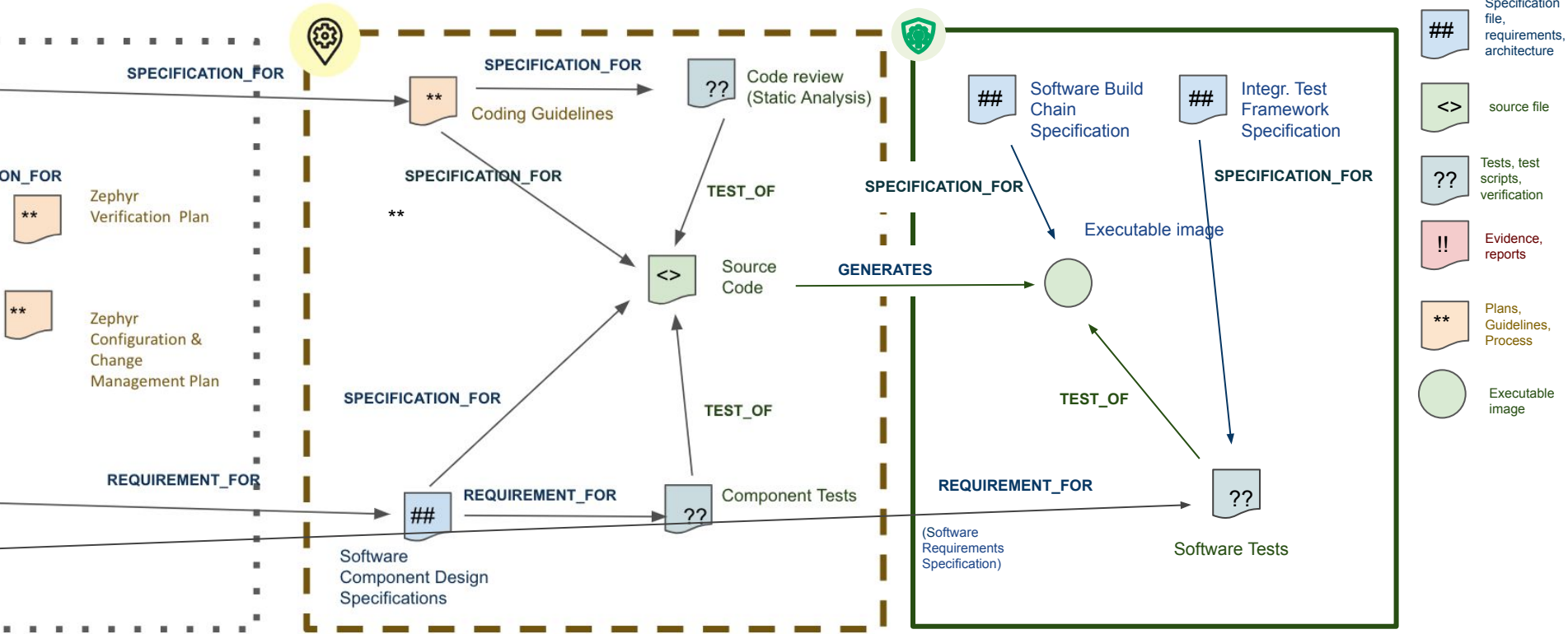
# SPDX Style Dependencies in a FuSa Project



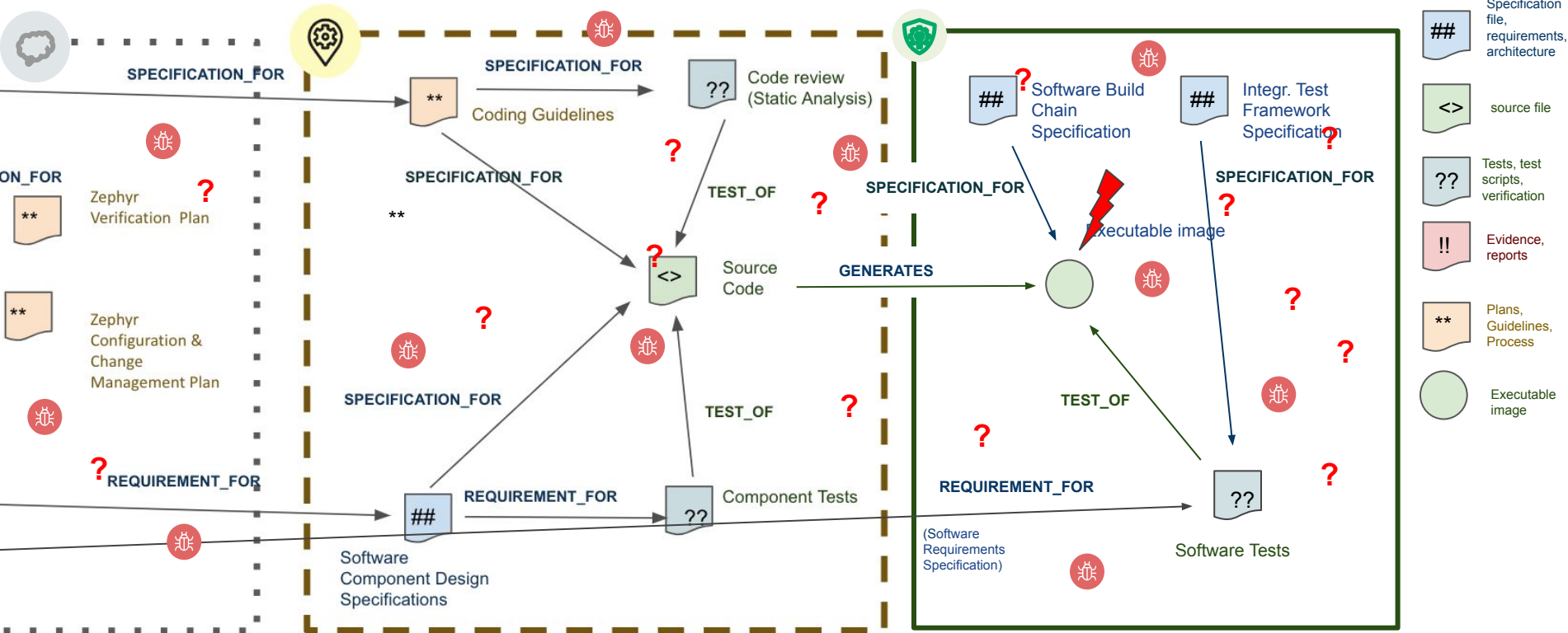
# Knowledge Graph of Design to Source



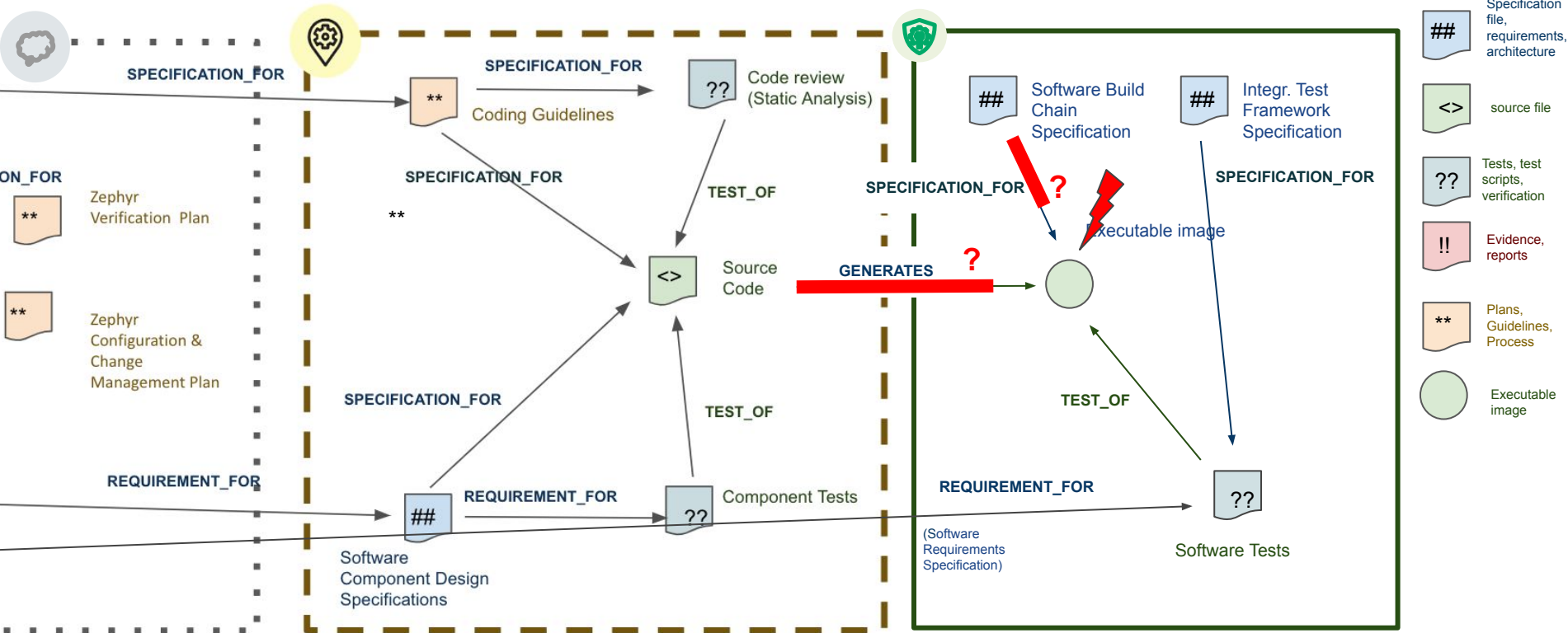
# Knowledge Graph of Source to Build



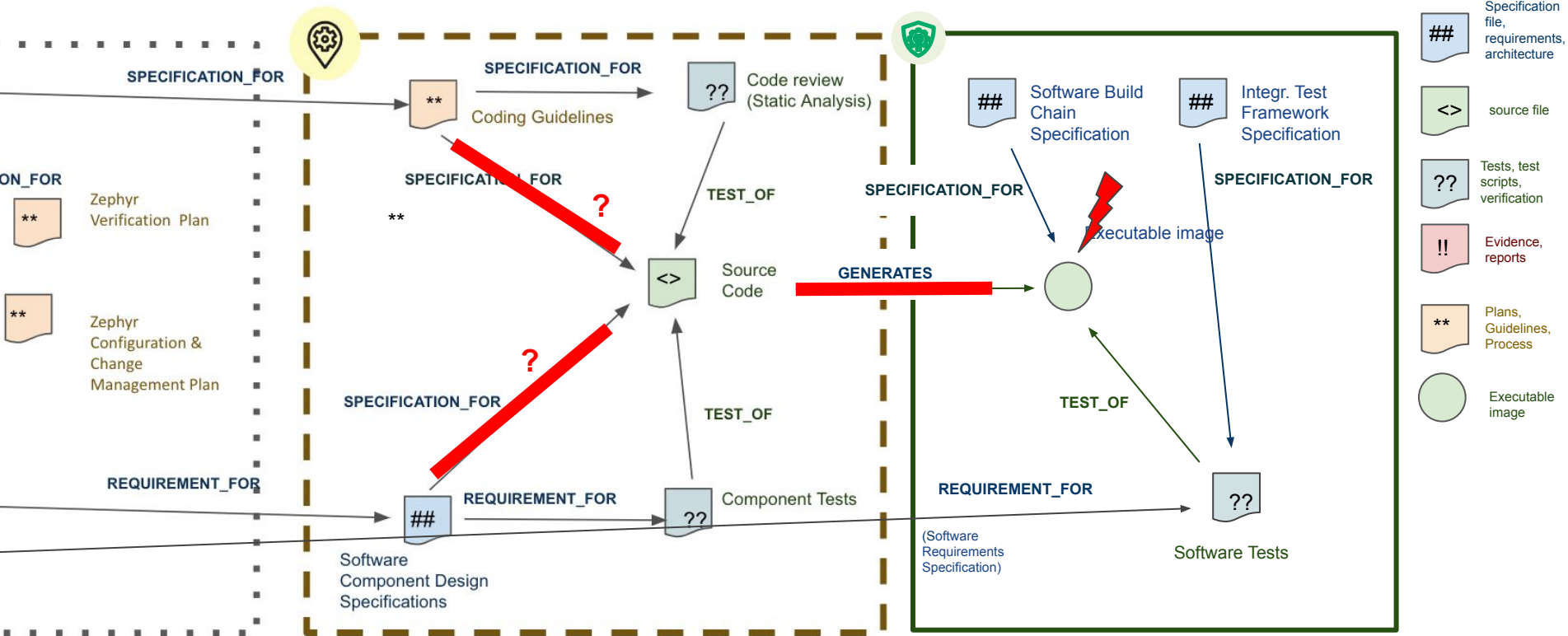
# Dependency Identification between Components



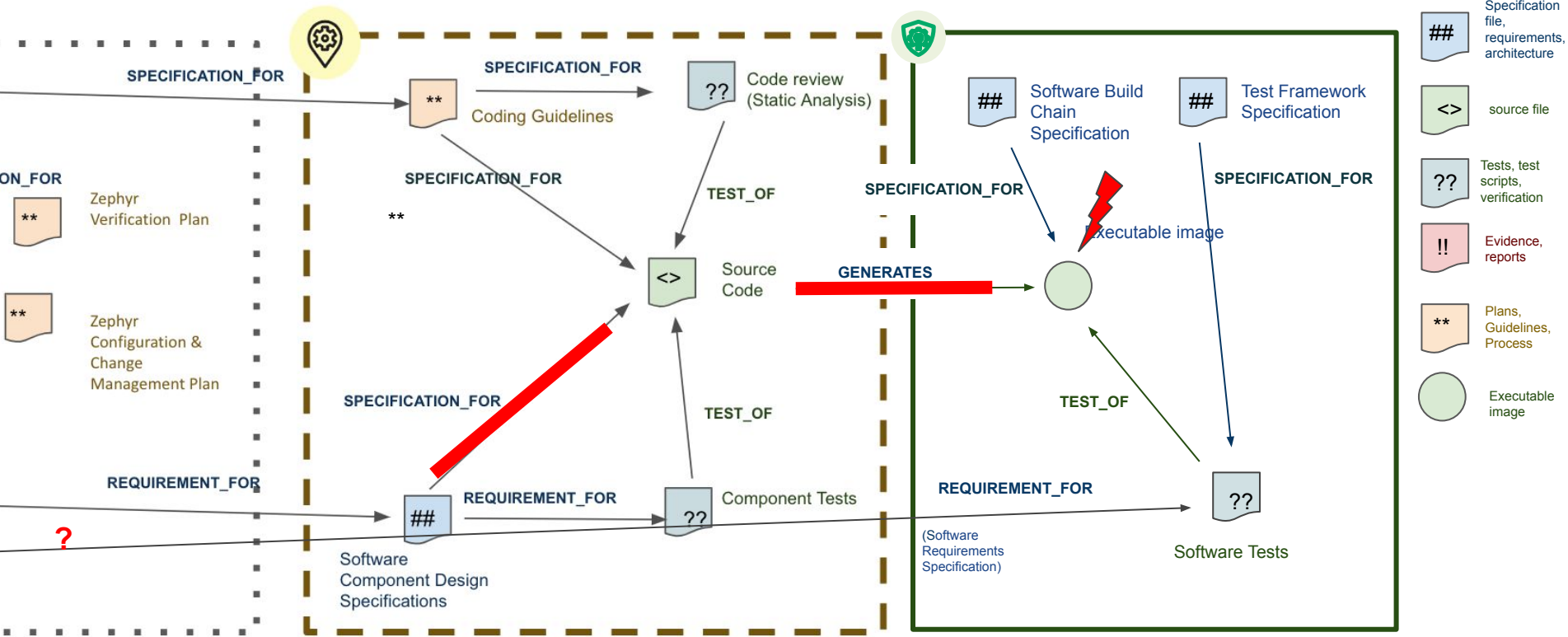
# Dependency Identification at Component Level



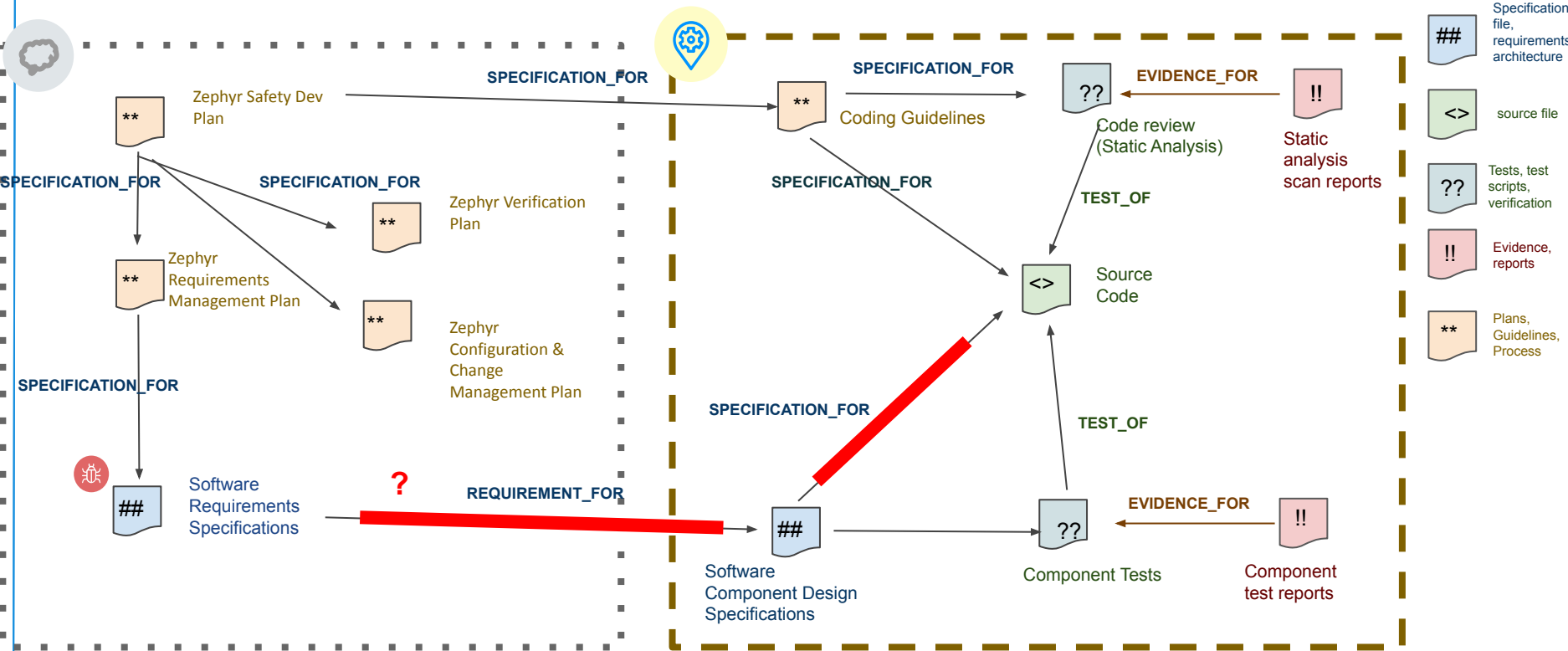
# Dependency Identification at Component Level



# Dependency Identification at Component Level

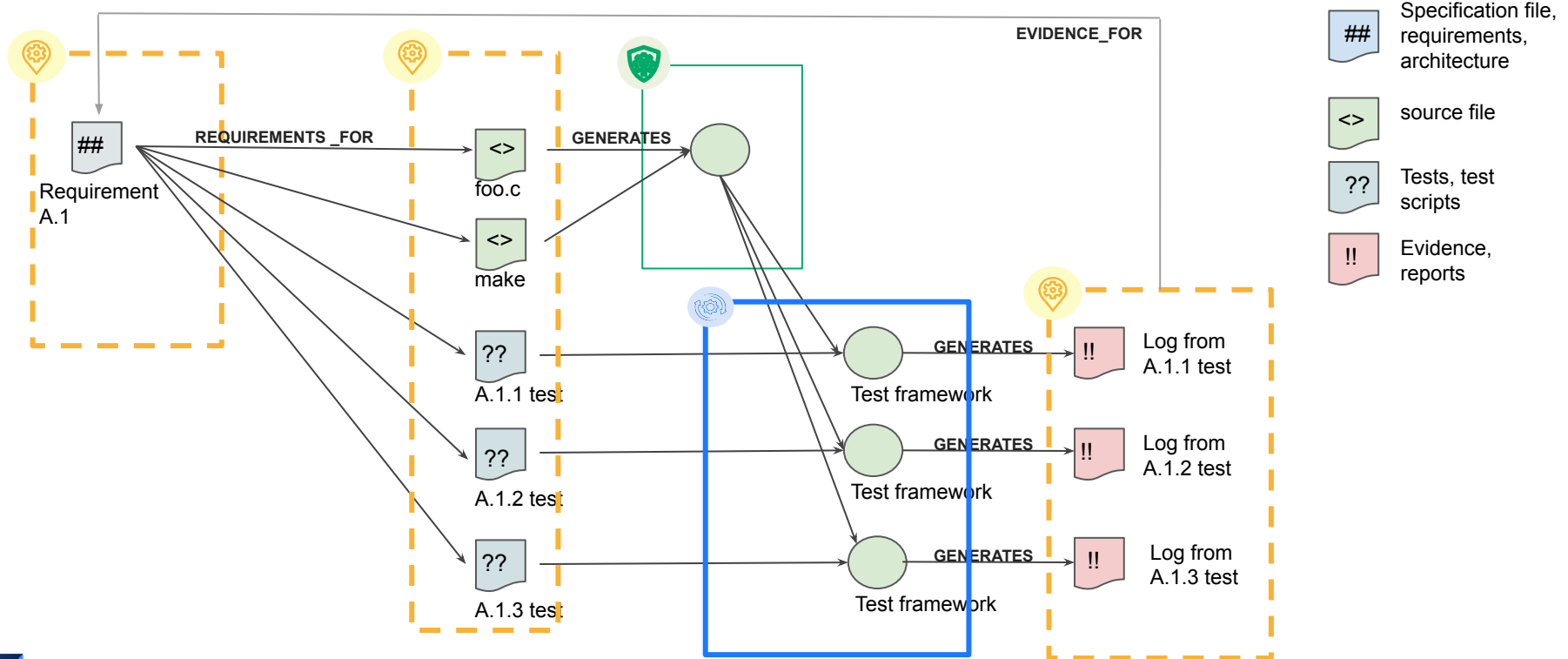


# Dependency Identification at Component Level



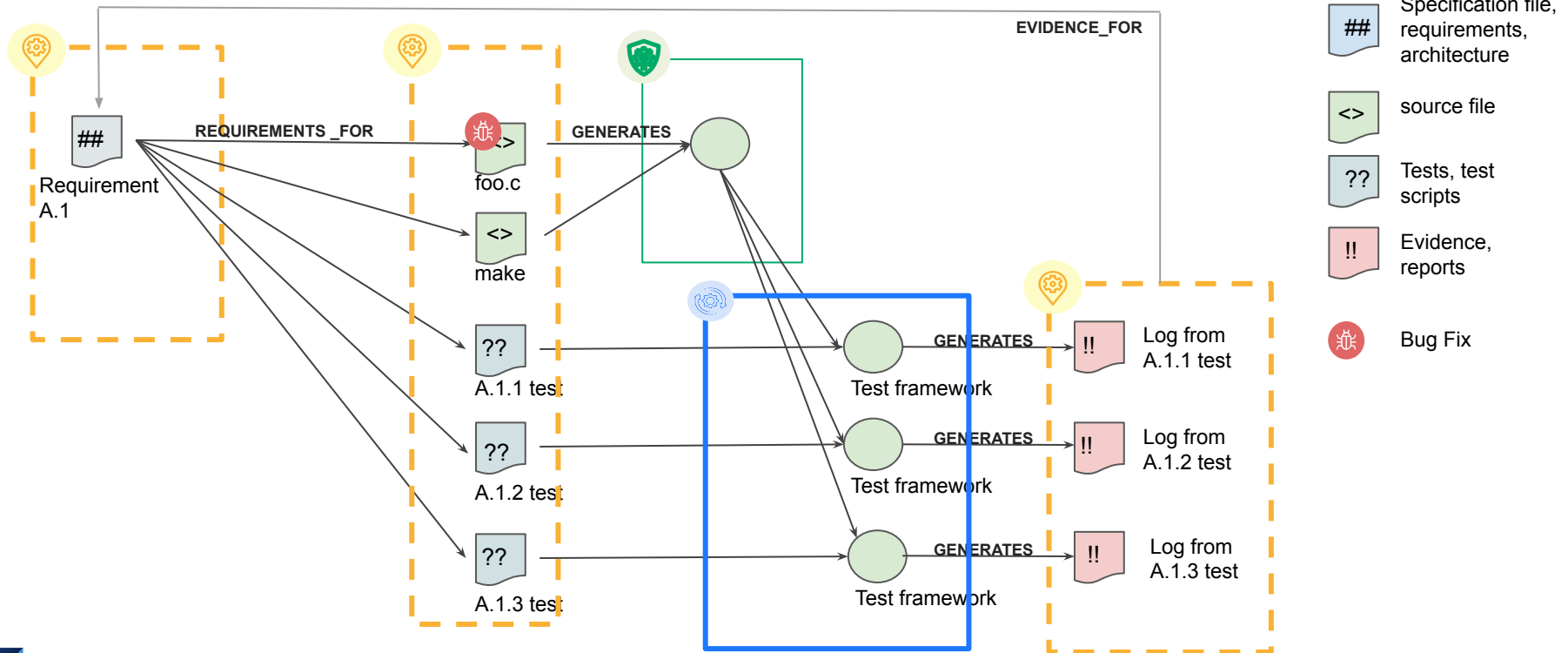
# When needed: Traceability Inside Component

Requirement to Code to Tests to Evidence + detailed SBOMs ⇒ Automation of Analysis



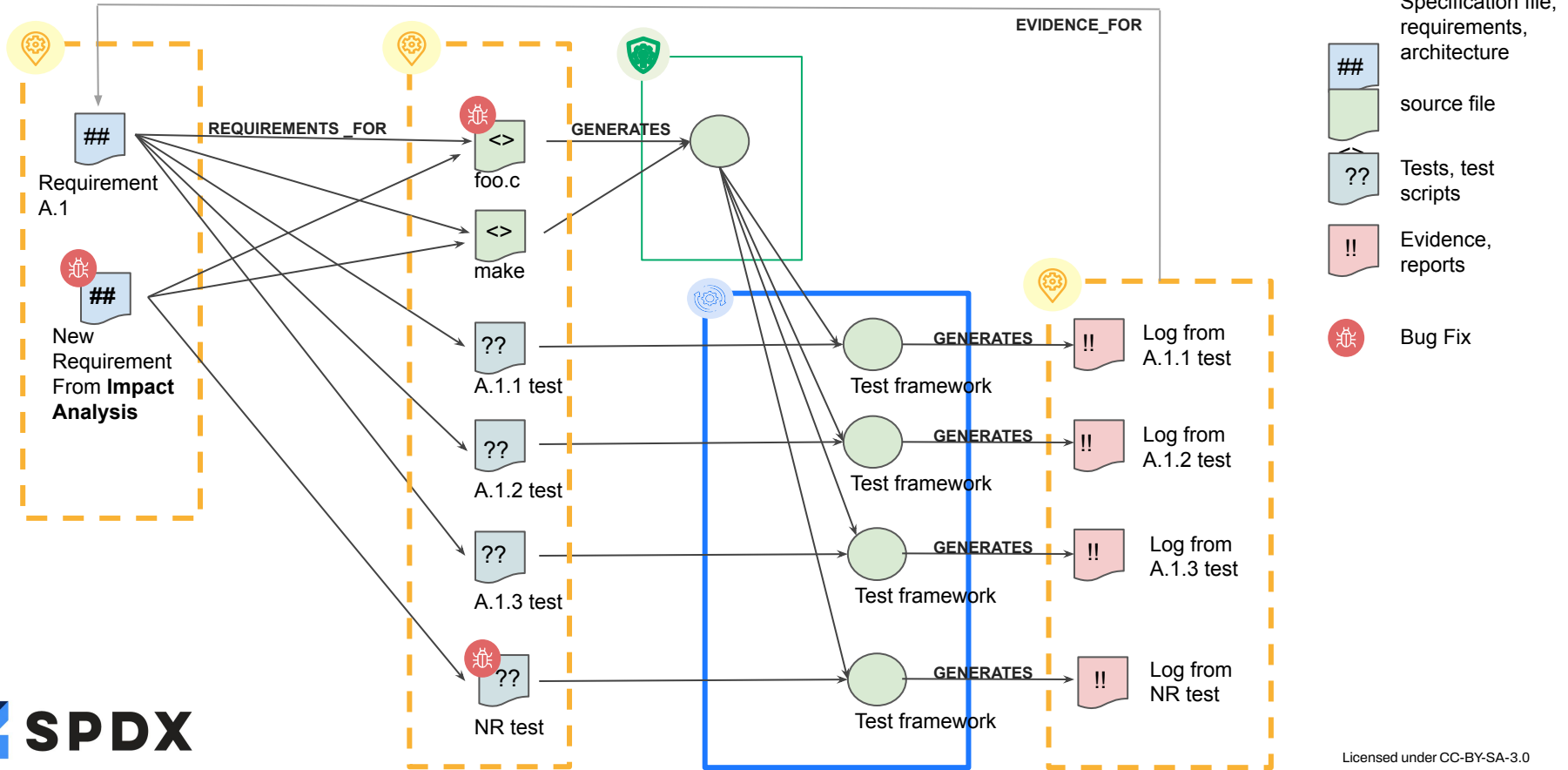
# When needed: Traceability Inside Component

Requirement to Code to Tests to Evidence  $\Rightarrow$  Continuous Compliance



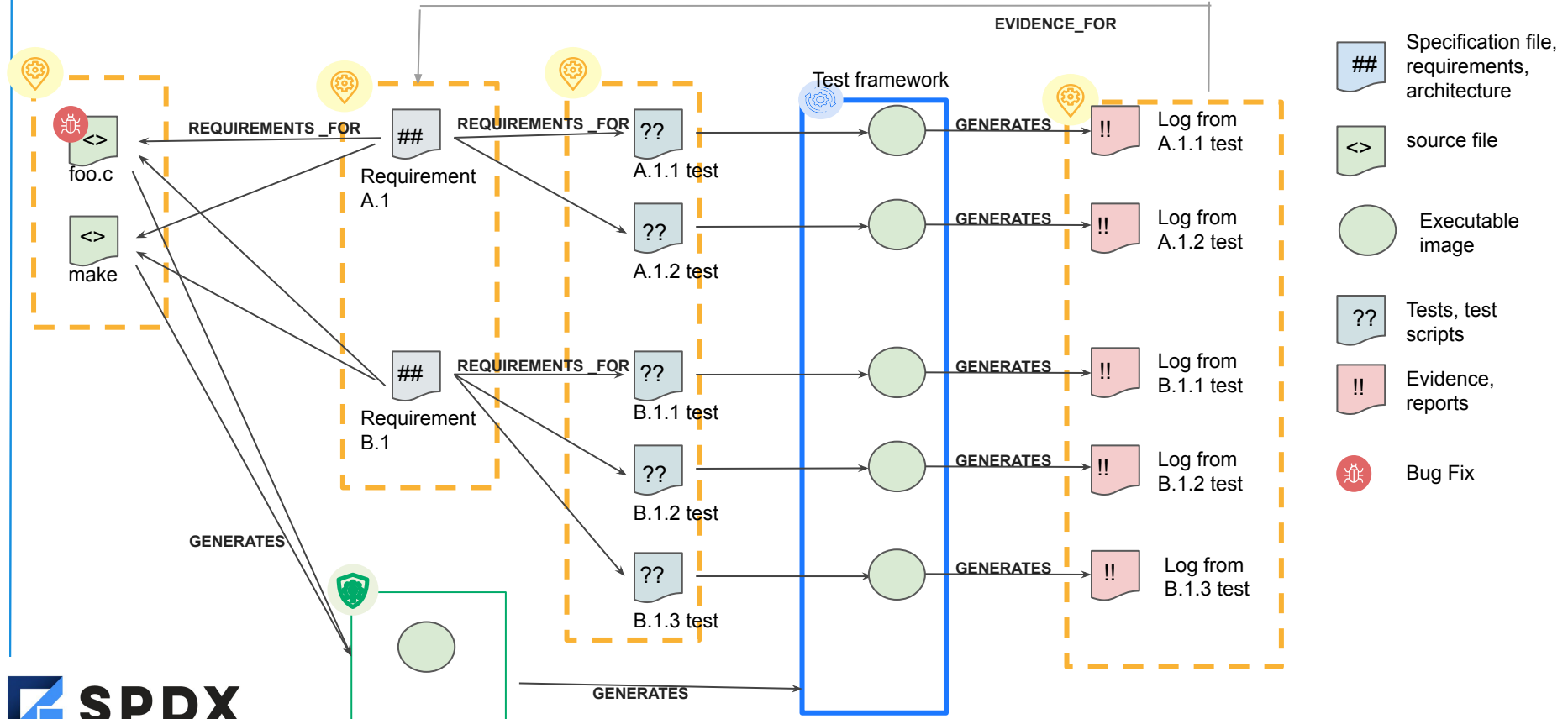
# Traceability Inside Component

## Identification of New Requirement to Code to Tests to Evidence



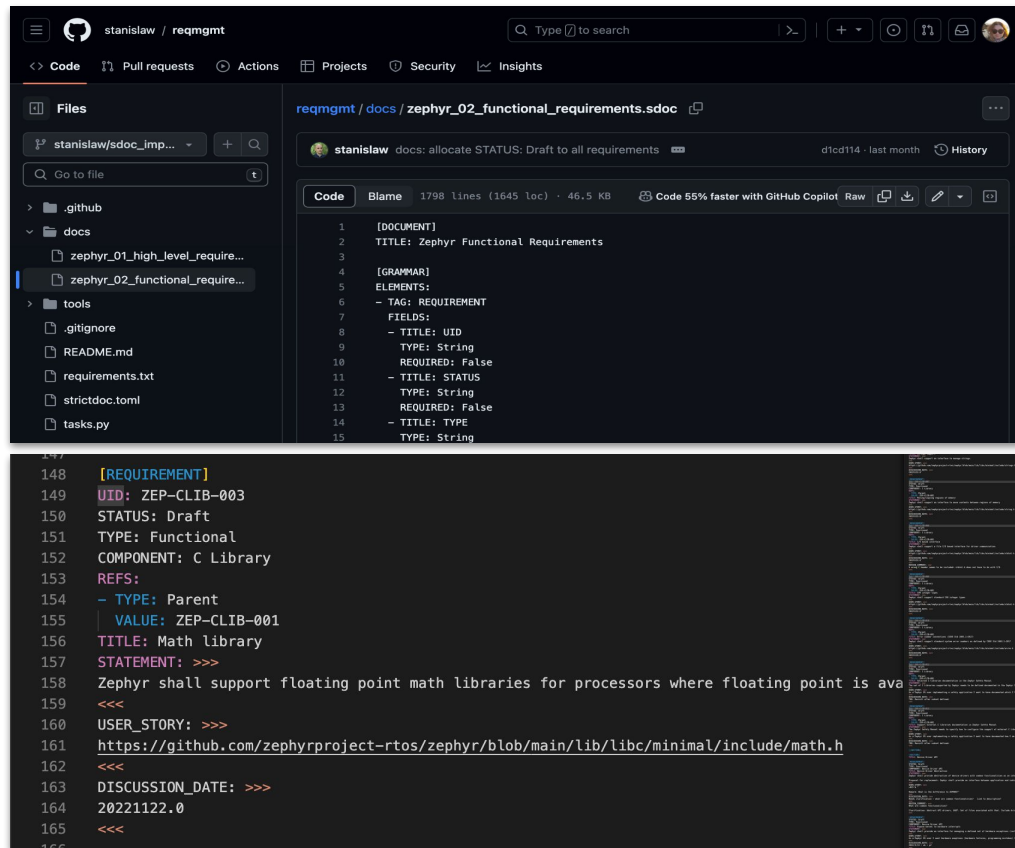
# Inside Component: Traceability of Source to Requirements

Efficient Regression Testing  $\Rightarrow$  Evidence of Compliance



# Current Requirements Work In Progress

- Used tooling: StrictDoc (<https://github.com/strictdoc-project/strictdoc>)
- Hierarchical structure of requirements that works for the project
- Capturing the requirements in StrictDoc which is working towards import/export of SPDX



```
1 [DOCUMENT]
2 TITLE: Zephyr Functional Requirements
3
4 [GRAMMAR]
5 ELEMENTS:
6 - TAG: REQUIREMENT
7 FIELDS:
8 - TITLE: UID
9   TYPE: String
10  REQUIRED: False
11 - TITLE: STATUS
12   TYPE: String
13  REQUIRED: False
14 - TITLE: TYPE
15   TYPE: String
```

```
148 [REQUIREMENT]
149 UID: ZEP-CLIB-003
150 STATUS: Draft
151 TYPE: Functional
152 COMPONENT: C Library
153 REFS:
154 - TYPE: Parent
155   VALUE: ZEP-CLIB-001
156 TITLE: Math library
157 STATEMENT: >>>
158 Zephyr shall support floating point math libraries for processors where floating point is available.
159 <<<
160 USER_STORY: >>>
161 https://github.com/zephyrproject-rtos/zephyr/blob/main/lib/libc/minimal/include/math.h
162 <<<
163 DISCUSSION_DATE: >>>
164 20221122.0
165 <<<
```



Also plans, like the Zephyr Safety Plan look like that, each planning item is tracked as a requirement

Assessment checklist -> each checkpoint is a requirement, tracing to the Zephyr's evidences



# Want to help make it happen faster?

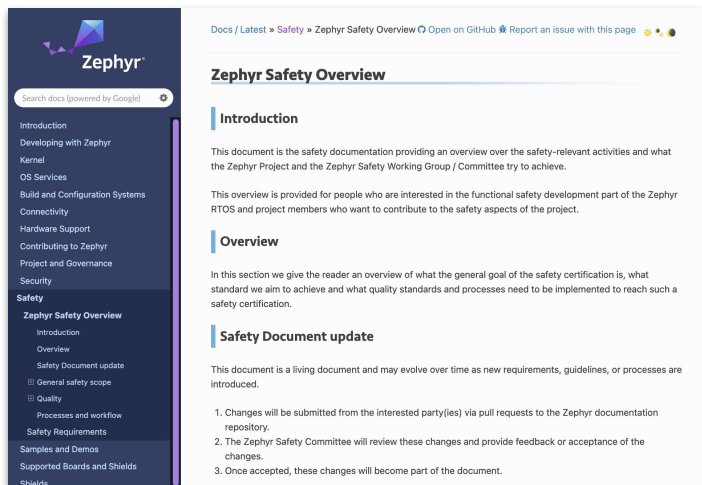


## Step 1: Read the docs to start ...

### Safety Overview



### Requirements Guideline



Docs / Latest » Safety » Zephyr Safety Overview [Open on GitHub](#) [Report an issue with this page](#)

## Zephyr Safety Overview

### Introduction

This document is the safety documentation providing an overview over the safety-relevant activities and what the Zephyr Project and the Zephyr Safety Working Group / Committee try to achieve.

This overview is provided for people who are interested in the functional safety development part of the Zephyr RTOS and project members who want to contribute to the safety aspects of the project.

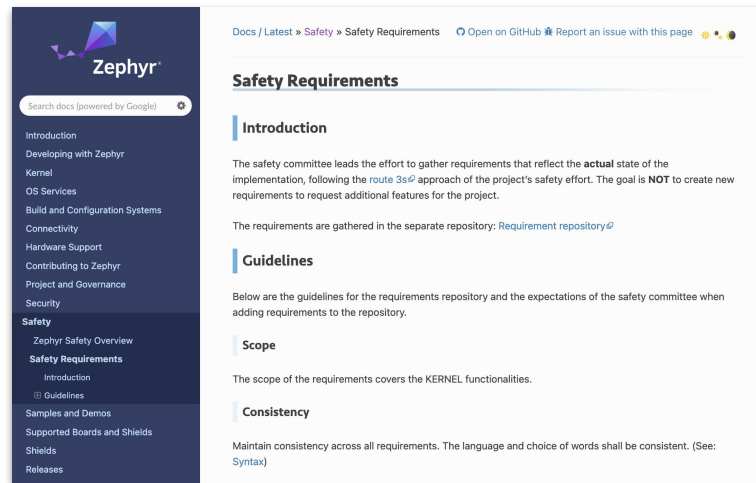
### Overview

In this section we give the reader an overview of what the general goal of the safety certification is, what standard we aim to achieve and what quality standards and processes need to be implemented to reach such a safety certification.

### Safety Document update

This document is a living document and may evolve over time as new requirements, guidelines, or processes are introduced.

1. Changes will be submitted from the interested party(ies) via pull requests to the Zephyr documentation repository.
2. The Zephyr Safety Committee will review these changes and provide feedback or acceptance of the changes.
3. Once accepted, these changes will become part of the document.



Docs / Latest » Safety » Safety Requirements [Open on GitHub](#) [Report an issue with this page](#)

## Safety Requirements

### Introduction

The safety committee leads the effort to gather requirements that reflect the **actual** state of the implementation, following the [route 3s](#) approach of the project's safety effort. The goal is **NOT** to create new requirements to request additional features for the project.

The requirements are gathered in the separate repository: [Requirement repository](#)

### Guidelines

Below are the guidelines for the requirements repository and the expectations of the safety committee when adding requirements to the repository.

#### Scope

The scope of the requirements covers the KERNEL functionalities.

#### Consistency

Maintain consistency across all requirements. The language and choice of words shall be consistent. (See: [Syntax](#))

# Want to help make it happen faster?



## Step 2: look at our repos ...

### Requirements:

- Grab a PR and give some feedback
- Read through the existing requirements and submit a PR if needed
- Get familiar with StrictDoc
- Start creating new requirements :-)



<https://github.com/zephyrproject-rtos/reqmgmt>

### Safety Working Group Project:

- Have a look at the tasks
- Grab an existing task
- Or submit a new tasks



<https://github.com/orgs/zephyrproject-rtos/projects/23>

# Want to help make it happen faster?



## Step 3: Contribute in our repos:

### Requirements Repository

- Grab a PR and give some feedback
- Read through the existing requirements and submit an issue if needed
- Get familiar with StrictDoc and start creating new requirements :-)



<https://github.com/zephyrproject-rtos/reqmgmt>

A screenshot of the GitHub repository page for 'zephyrproject-rtos / reqmgmt'. The page shows the repository name, a search bar, and navigation tabs for Code, Issues (16), Pull requests (6), Actions, Projects, Wiki, Security, and Insights. Below the repository name, there are buttons for 'main', '1 Branch', and '0 Tags', along with a search bar and 'Add file' and 'Code' buttons. A list of files and folders is displayed, including .github/workflows, docs, tools, .gitignore, README.md, requirements.txt, strictdoc.toml, and tasks.py. The README section is visible at the bottom, titled 'Zephyr Project Requirements', with a description of the repository's purpose and a link to the deployed documentation.

# Overall Updates @ Zephyr Safety FAQ



## Safety FAQ

Stéphane PARENTI edited this page last week - [12 revisions](#)

### What is Safety?

In some industries, failure of a system could mean harm to its users, operators, 3rd parties or the environment. To prevent unreasonable risk due to hazards caused by failure and/or unintended behavior of such safety critical systems, each industry has created standards. These standards share the same foundations, but each have requirements of their own. You will find some of these standards mentioned in the scope section below. These standards include, but not limited to, definition of: terminology, activities to be performed, organizational/project requirements, independence requirements, evidence of lifecycle execution requirements... Safety lifecycle activities are added on top of the typical software lifecycle activities to ensure that the software is operating as designed as well as designed to prevent and/or reduce the risk of failures and/or mitigate their effect.

### Why does Zephyr need safety?

Some companies are looking at using Zephyr for applications in machinery, automotive, appliances, medical, which is why the Zephyr RTOS project is looking at strengthening and enhancing its software lifecycle to comply with the respective industry standards.

### Why IEC 61508?

IEC 61508 is used as a baseline for many other standards. As such IEC 61508 is a good reference standard to start with and for any other functional safety standards that the Zephyr project will want to achieve.

### How can I contribute?

Follow the instructions given at [Safety Working Group · zephyrproject-rtos/zephyr Wiki](#) and for meetings, current areas of contribution and useful links and consult [Safety — Zephyr Project Documentation](#) for guidelines.

1. Who can contribute to the Zephyr safety effort?  
| Anyone willing to!



<https://github.com/zephyrproject-rtos/zephyr/wiki/Safety-FAQ>

# Join us!



## Participate in the Working Group:

### Safety Working Group Project

- Have a look at the tasks
- Grab an existing task
- Or submit a new task



<https://lists.zephyrproject.org/g/safety-wg>  
Biweekly meeting calendar information and mailing list subscription.



<https://discord.gg/mgZkSmq2>

A screenshot of a Jira project board for the "Safety WG". The board is organized into columns: "No Status" (2 items), "Todo" (8 items), and "In Progress" (5 items). Each item is a task card with a title, description, and status tags. For example, the "Todo" column includes tasks like "Establish a way to trace existing testcases back to design specification" (Enhancement, Safety) and "Improve coding guidelines descriptions" (Coding Guidelines, Enhancement, Safety). The "In Progress" column includes tasks like "Add Requirements for the Zephyr project" (Meta, Safety) and "Define a Coding Guideline enforcement strategy" (Coding Guidelines, Enhancement, Safety). The board also shows a search bar at the top and navigation options like "Board", "Requirements", and "New view".

Source: <https://github.com/orgs/zephyrproject-rtos/projects/23/views/1>

# Thank you for your interest!

