Information on

Repair and modification of safes and strongrooms

Secure storage units, as e. g. safes, strongrooms or strongroom doors shall have a defined resistance against various attacks. This is guaranteed by their high-quality construction as well as by the use of first-class materials and components (fillings, armourings, high security locks, etc.).

The burglar resistant features of safes are proved by the VdS test and approval procedure in an objective manner and confirmed with the VdS certificate. In order to guarantee a high product quality the manufacturing plant of the holder of the approval shall run a certified quality management system according to DIN EN ISO 9001. In addition the manufacturing plant is surveilled in regular intervals.



As evidence of a VdS-approval (certification) safes dispose of an unambiguous certification label (see figure 1). The holder of the approval/manufacturer proves by this label conformity of the respective product with security-relevant documentation (normally stamped documents). This label shall be affixed in a durable manner at the safe (door interior). It contains information as e. g. on resistance against intrusion. With this approval label – ist contains a. o. indications on resistance grade against burglary - each safe is customised and thus traceable.

Further information may be taken free of charge from www.vds.de (especially VdS 3134, Technical Comments).

The following statements are to be considered in order the confidence in a VdS-certified is maintained:

Intrusion or **attempted intrusion** as well as repair and modifications in construction may lead to a severe impair of the burglar resistant features of the safes so that the characteristics as specified by the holder of the approval and confirmed by the certificate no longer are given. Such a safe therefore is **no more** VdS-approved, the certification label is to be removed.



In single cases it has to be clarified between owner of the safe, the holder of the approval and the insurer if and to what extent the safe may be repaired.

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Modifications and **repairs** of VdS-approved safes (e. g. mounting of other locks or other bolt works) by not approved third parties or by the customer himself also lead to the loss of the approval.

Modifications of safes have the following effects on the VdS-approval:

- **Either** the holder of the approval or a respective authorised company of the safes industry takes over the responsibility for the work that was done, i. e. it must be decided self dependently if the measures that were taken do reduce the burglar resistance of the safe or not
- **or** the approval expires and the certification label is to be removed in agreement with the operator.

If modifications and/or repairs are made at VdS-approved safes by a service provider for the maintenance, repair and modifications service at safes which is VdS-approved according to VdS 3529, this service provider shall judge and evaluate the effects of a modification and/or repair.

If the investigation by the VdS-approved service provider reveals that security-relevant features were maintained, this is proved by affixing a service label (see figure 2). The indications of the original safes label are to be transferred onto the service label in each case. The detailed procedure is described in VdS 3529.

Besides all technical consideration, it is to be considered that repairs of safes which are not agreed with the insurers may jeopardise the insurance cover. This is why the agreement with the insurers is urgently recommended.

Reasons for a modification may be multiple; however, a modification should not be effected before the written order from the owner of the safe is available. This is the more valid, as the burglar resistance of a safe may be interfered after an intrusion, an intrusion attempt, repair or modification such that the characteristics specified by the holder of the approval and confirmed by a certificate are no more given. A clarification with the responsible persons before realisation of measures is therefore indispensable for all concerned parties.

The required documentation of the measures is made by using attestation form, VdS 3820, which may be taken from the guidelines VdS 3529 or the log book, VdS 3820, and may be ordered under www.vds.de.

The procedure for modifications of safes is shown in the following flowcharts. Important element of each service at safes is the detailed documentation of all measures. Modifications of safes are to be described by the executing experts completely by using the attestation form for services at safes by VdS-approved service providers, contained in VdS 3529. This gives a. o. a sound legal protection for the executing service provider, the insuree as also for the insurer, if concerned. The accurate documentation of all measures is relevant especially for safes the approval holder of which are no more active in the market to be able to classify its security features.

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If in single cases for elder safes discrepancies on possibilities of modifications or concerns on the security-relevant features after a modification exist, VdS Schadenverhütung may, e. g. **in form of an expertise**, give comments on the necessary repair and modifications. In this case the contact to VdS Schadenverhütung is recommended.

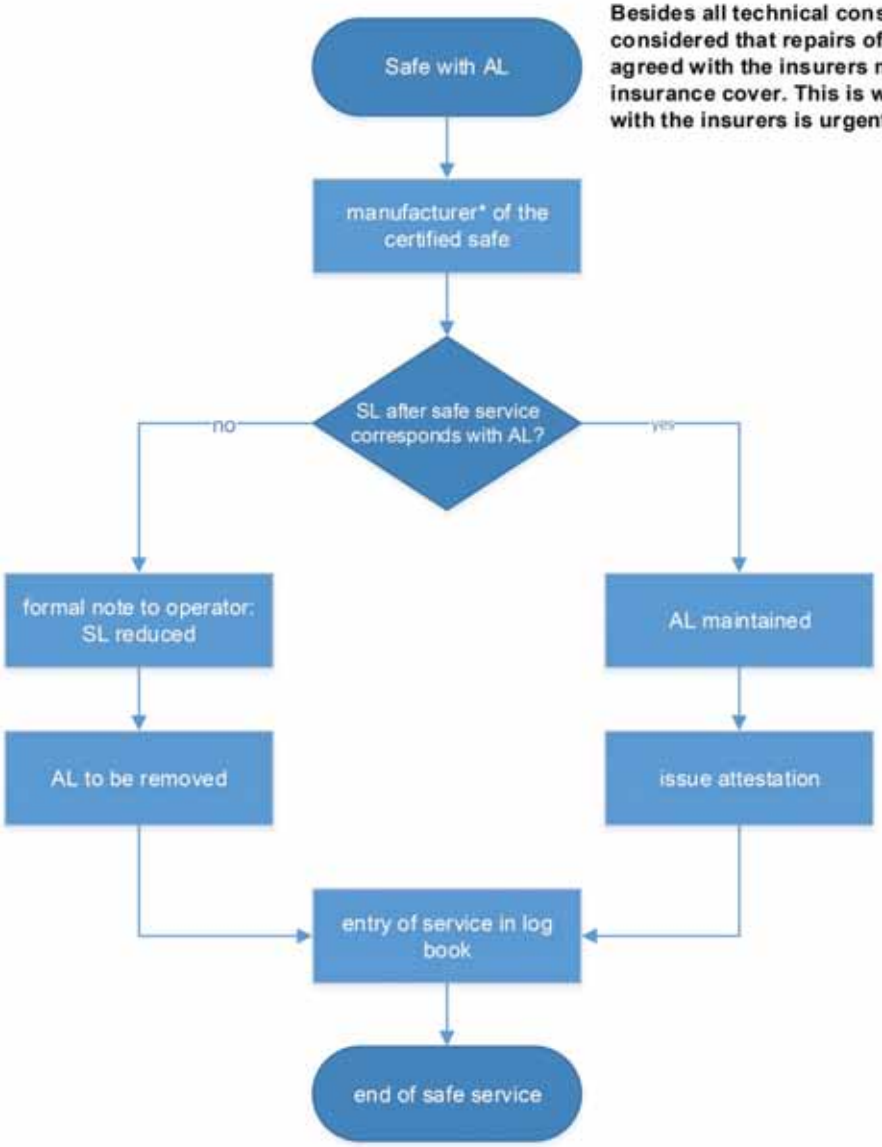
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Besides all technical consideration, it is to be considered that repairs of safes which are not agreed with the insurers may jeopardise the insurance cover. This is why the agreement with the insurers is urgently recommended.

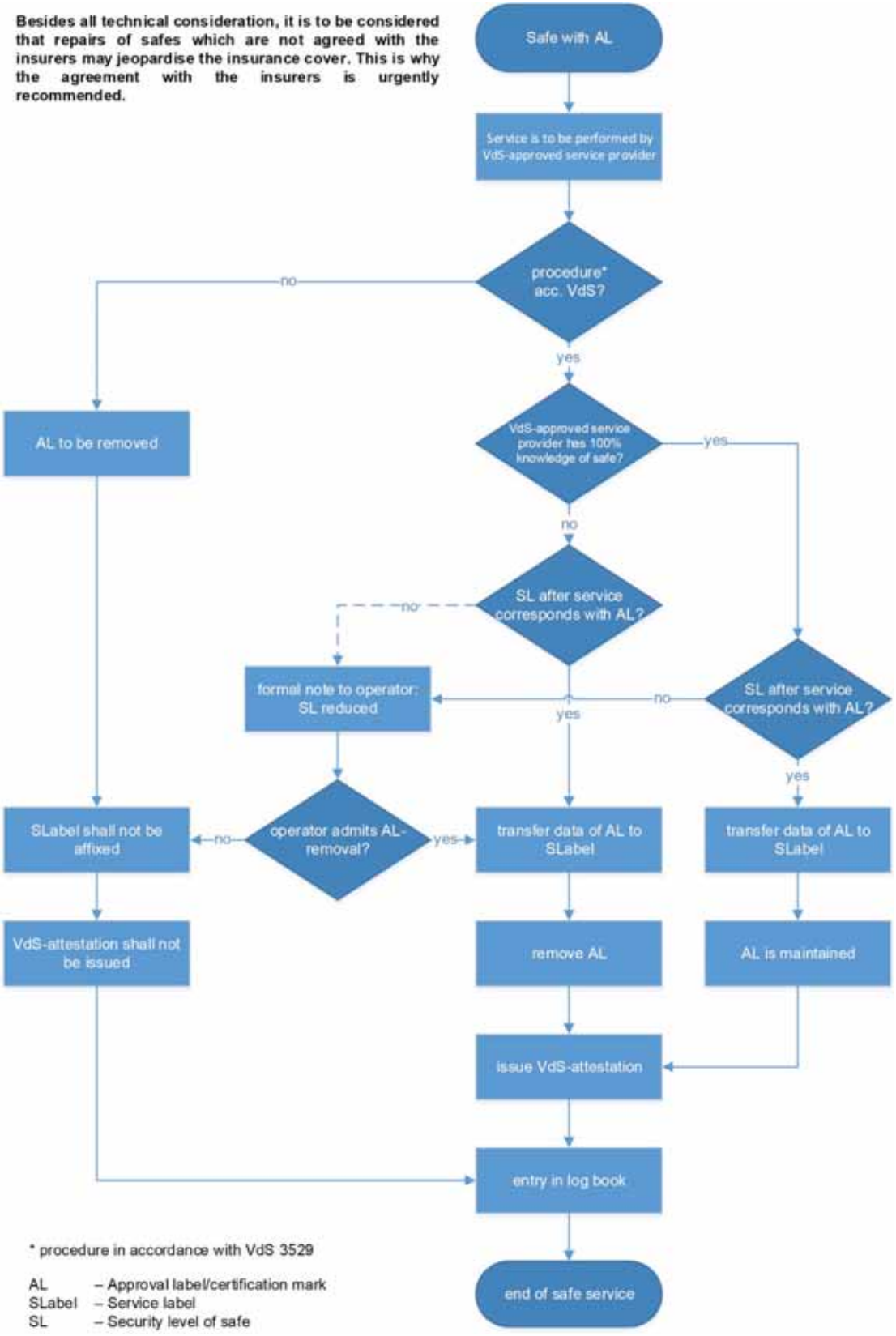
*manufacturer: the owner of the certificate

AL – Approval label/certification mark
SL – Security level of safe

If owner of certificat is at the same time service provider accord to VdS 3529, the procedure for approved service providers is applicable

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* procedure in accordance with VdS 3529

AL – Approval label/certification mark
SLabel – Service label
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