SOFTEMA – Frequently Asked Questions

Version: January 2025

The following list provides answers to frequently asked questions in relation to SOFTEMA and will be continuously updated.

Terms of use

Where can the terms of use be found?

On the SOFTEMA homepage https://www.dguv.de/ifa/praxishilfen/practical-solutions-machine-safety/software-softema/index.jsp and in the README file.

Where can I find the README file?

The README file can be found in the SOFTEMA installation folder and can also be read in the help menu in SOFTEMA.

Can SOFTEMA also be used for commercial purposes free of charge?

Yes. There are no serial numbers for the use of SOFTEMA. However, please note the licence information and the exclusion of liability on the SOFTEMA homepage and in the README file.

Where can I find the system requirements for SOFTEMA?

The system requirements can be found right at the bottom of the SOFTEMA homepage https://www.dguv.de/ifa/praxishilfen/practical-solutions-machine-safety/software-softema/index.jsp. 64-bit systems are also supported.

Installing/uninstalling

Can multiple versions of SOFTEMA be installed and used?

Multiple versions of SOFTEMA can be installed on one computer. To do this, the installation folders must be given different names. Example:

SOFTEMA version 1.0.6 is installed in the folder C:\Program Files\SOFTEMA106 and version 1.3.9 is installed in C:\Program Files\SOFTEMA130. During the installation of a new version of SOFTEMA, the older version is detected, and a prompt appears recommending the uninstalling of this older version. This option should be rejected.

How can SOFTEMA be uninstalled?

In the "SOFTEMA" program group, the command "Remove SOFTEMA" can be used to uninstall the relevant version. Alternatively, the application "unins000.exe" in the installation folder can be started to uninstall SOFTEMA. The Windows function "Control Panel/Programs and Features" can only be used to uninstall the most recently installed version.

Are the files created by the user deleted when SOFTEMA is uninstalled?

No, only the files that were created during the installation process are deleted. Nevertheless, it is still recommended to back-up your projects and libraries.

https://www.dguv.de/ifa/index-2.jsp

First use of SOFTEMA

Is there a "Getting Started" document for SOFTEMA?

Yes, it can be accessed in SOFTEMA via the help menu. Alternatively, it is also available in the "SOFTEMA" program group and on the SOFTEMA homepage https://www-vorschau.dguv.de/ifa/praxishilfen/practical-solutions-machine-safety/software-softema/index.jsp.

How do I start a new project?

SOFTEMA itself does not generate any new projects. The working folder contains a template with the file name "__SOFTEMA_Template__.xlsx", which should be opened and then saved with a different file name. The template can then be adjusted in accordance with the instructions in SOFTEMA Cookbook 1.

Are example files available?

Yes, the working folder contains the file "SOFTEMA_Example.xlsx", which can be opened in SOFTEMA. Further example files are available to download with the IFA Report 2/2016.

Where can I find further information on the topic of "safety-related application software for machinery"?

You can find further information on the SOFTEMA homepage https://www-vorschau.dguv.de/ifa/praxishilfen/practical-solutions-machine-safety/software-softema/index.jsp and in IFA Report 2/2016.

Error messages

When a project file is opened, the following error message appears: "Attention: The checksum in the file '*Filename*' does not match the file data!"

When the SOFTEMA project file is saved, a checksum is generated via the file data and saved in the 'Project' table. The next time SOFTEMA is launched, it checks the validity of the project file using this checksum. The file has probably been updated with an external tool (e.g. Excel) in the meantime or has been modified as a result of a SOFTEMA update. Then the checksum no longer matches the content. See SOFTEMA Cookbook 1 for further information.

Anti-virus programs often issue messages stating that SOFTEMA and its other programs may contain malware.

The IFA undertakes to keep its homepage free from viruses. Nevertheless, no guarantee can be given that the software and information provided are virus-free. However, restrictive analysis programs are being used increasingly frequently. When these programs are used, unknown programs such as SOFTEMA need to be approved in a one-off process.

Documentation

Which documentation can I use to teach myself how to use SOFTEMA?

Knowledge of the software requirements in the DIN EN ISO 13849 series of standards is a prerequisite for the use of SOFTEMA. The IFA Report 2/2016 provides a good introduction to this topic. Examples from the report can be loaded in SOFTEMA. The SISTEMA Cookbook 6 describes how safety functions are defined. You can find instructions on how to input data in SOFTEMA in SOFTEMA Cookbook 1. A help file is currently not available.

Where can I find the SOFTEMA Cookbooks?

https://www.dguv.de/ifa/index-2.jsp

Documentation

On the page https://www-vorschau.dguv.de/ifa/praxishilfen/practical-solutions-machine-safety/software-softema/index.jsp, which is also linked in the help menu in SOFTEMA.

Are the SOFTEMA Cookbooks also available as hard copies?

To ensure that the Cookbooks can be quickly updated at any time, we currently only offer them as PDF files, which can be downloaded free of charge. They are currently only available in German.

Training

Does the IFA offer training for companies?

As the software developer, the IFA is unfortunately unable to offer company training due to time constraints. The IFA only provides training for employees of the German social accident insurance institutions. However, searching the internet for "training", "seminar" and "SOFTEMA" brings up several external training providers.

SOFTEMA newsletter

When is the SOFTEMA newsletter sent?

The SOFTEMA newsletter appears at least once per year, and if required, even multiple times per year. It informs readers about new SOFTEMA versions and publications from the IFA on the topic of machine safety. In some circumstances, the newsletter reports a critical error in SOFTEMA. Users of SOFTEMA should therefore still subscribe to the SOFTEMA newsletter belatedly, if they haven't already.

How can I subscribe to the newsletter?

You can subscribe to the newsletter with your email address during the download process, from within SOFTEMA (help menu) after installation or directly from the SOFTEMA homepage. After subscribing to the newsletter, a verification email will be sent to you. Click on the link in the email to verify your email address. You will only be subscribed to the SOFTEMA newsletter after you have clicked this link.

How can I unsubscribe if I no longer wish to receive the newsletter?

At the end of each newsletter, there is a link to unsubscribe.

Can previously sent newsletter be accessed and read?

Older newsletters are collected in an archive, which can be accessed via the SOFTEMA homepage.

Why am I not receiving newsletters even though I have subscribed?

Some newsletters cannot be delivered because they are identified as spam and filtered out. In this case, you should add the email address SOFTEMA@dguv.de to your list of safe senders.