Information on

Repair and modification of safes and strongrooms

A repair/modification of safes and strongrooms is permitted only if a written order of the owner of the safe/strongroom is available.

The owner is asked to discuss the intention of a repair/modification of his safe/strongroom with his insurer before he places an order (see enclosed flowchart) in order to avoid possible negative influences on the insurance policy.

Secure storage units, as e. g. safes, strongroom walls and doors shall be designed such that they have a resistance against the different attacks of criminals as high as possible. For this purpose besides a high-quality construction also a thorough choice of material (e. g. filling material) and components (e. g. locks, bolt works) is necessary.

The burglar resistant features of safes are proved by the VdS test and approval procedure in an objective manner. 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 EN ISO 9001. Furthermore the manufacturing plant is surveilled in regular intervals.

As proof of a VdS-approval (certification) safes dispose of a certification label (see figure), which is to be affixed in a durable manner at the safe. This label contains information as a. o. on resistance against intrusion.

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 features 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, holder of the approval and insurer if and to what extent the safe may be repaired.

Repairs of safes that were not agreed upon with the insurer may lead to a threat of the insurance cover.

Modifications and **repairs** of VdS-approved safes (e. g. mounting of other locks or other bolt works) by third parties or by the customer himself also lead to the loss of the approval as only the holder of the VdS-approval is able to evaluate the effects of such modifications.

Modifications of safes have the following effects on a 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.

If modifications are made - advisable: in agreement with the insurer – at safes (independently if a VdS-approval may be maintained) these changes are to be documented in detail.

The procedure for repair/modification of safes is shown in the annex.

Documentation:

Modifications at safes should be described in detail on hand of the document ”Conformity of modifications of a safe”, VdS 3532en, by the executing experts in order to receive legal certainty for the insured as well as for the insurer. This is valid especially for safes, where the holder of the approval is no more present at the market.
If burglar resistance of safes is not interfered with when modifying the safe the VdS-lable SAFE-Modification is to be affixed besides or under the VdS approval label.
These VdS labels SAFE-Modification may be ordered at VdS by the holder of the approval or his representant.

Note: The confirmation VdS 3532 may be ordered by manufacturers of safes and insurance companies at the VdS homepage www.vds.de.

If in single cases for elder safes discrepancies on possibilities of modifications 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.

Laboratory for safes and strongrooms

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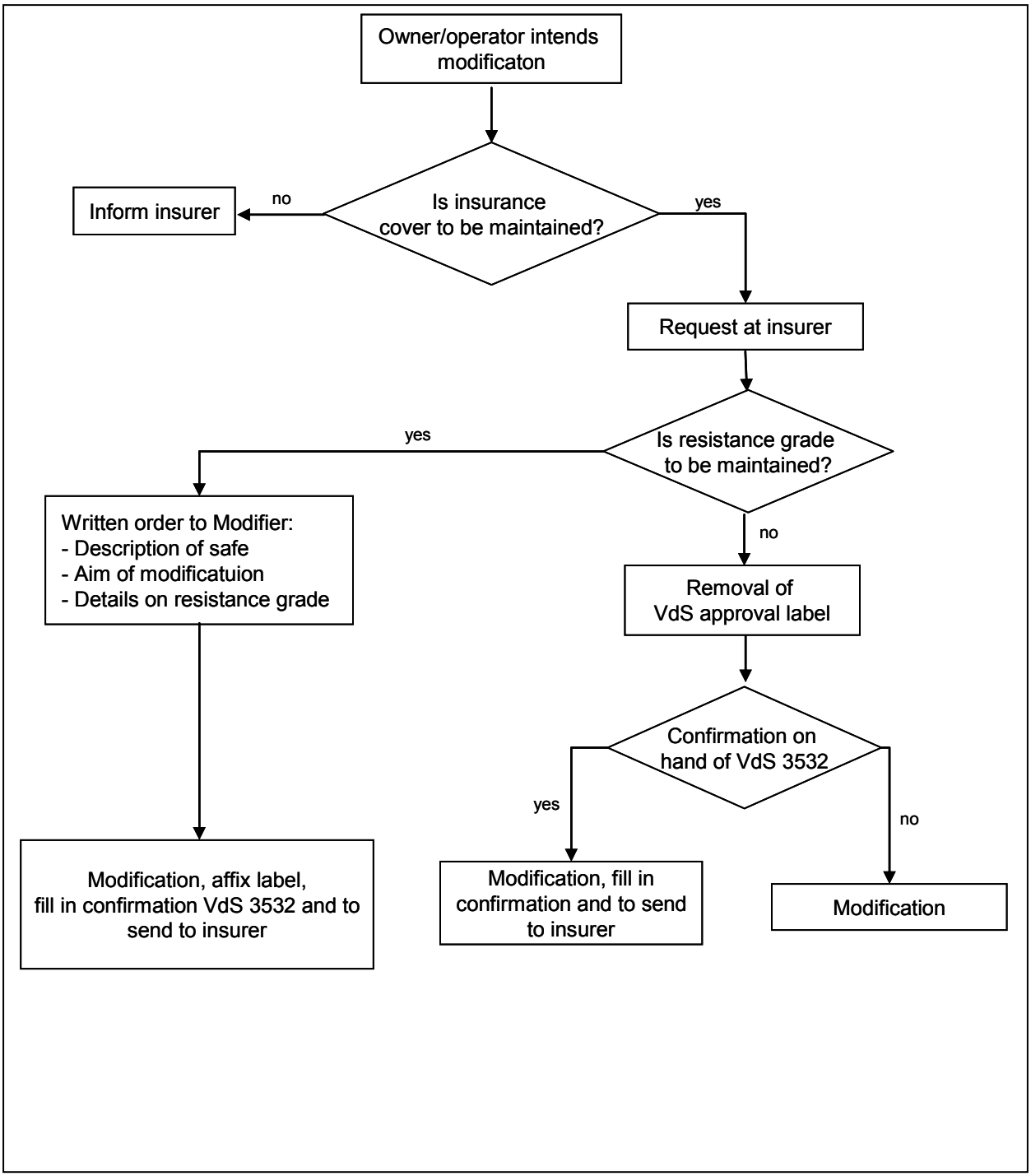
Annex: Procedure for modification of safes/strongrooms