

MECHANICAL OPS NEWS

A bimonthly news update from ASA's Mechanical Division.

January/February 2016



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Dan Risley
danr@asashop.org
(817) 514-2912

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Recent activities of the ASA Mechanical Division Operations Committee ...

The year is off to a fast start, and much of the recent activity of the Mechanical Division Operations Committee (MOC) is focused on the continuation of ongoing projects. The MOC is moving forward to develop a proposal for a periodic motor vehicle inspection (PMVI) best-practices document to provide a framework for states without programs and to hopefully improve those existing PMVI programs.

Committee members are working to identify the most effective elements of vehicle inspection programs in their own states, if such programs exist, and in those areas where PMVI programs have been in effect for some time. This document will outline a generic program profile that can be used across the country to define a specific inspection process built on the experience of the most successful PMVI programs.

As part of this process, ASA National will be hosting the next in a series of meetings on the subject tentatively scheduled for Houston, Texas, sometime in the fall.

The MOC also will be researching some of the issues identified in the most recent PMVI forum in St. Louis, including the need for more shared information on vehicle accidents between states. No current system exists to gather this information, but the MOC will follow the suggestions from St. Louis. We want to identify nongovernmental groups such as insurance companies and the Car Care Council to review the data that those groups collect to provide insight and identify potentially significant differences that could provide hard data on the effectiveness of PMVI programs nationwide.

MOC at VISION

The MOC will have a presence at the VISION event in Overland Park, Kan., March 3-5. Along with the training and other show events, committee members will attend the National Automotive Service Task Force (NASTF) general and board meetings.

Technician and Shop Licensing

Technician and shop licensing continues to be a topic of discussion within the MOC and the automotive industry at large. ASA's Washington representative and several committee members will continue the investigation into the value of technician and shop licensing in 2016. As stated in our last report, this issue has been raised in connection with developing a technician licensing or registration process to better address the need for

establishing the qualifications of those individuals who diagnose and service the sophisticated computer control systems typically found on today's vehicles.

As the dialogue on vehicle security and telematics continues, the issue becomes even more important in relation to those individuals responsible for servicing a vehicle who have access to sensitive or security-related information or data in the course of vehicle diagnosis and repair.

The MOC will continue to participate in this dialogue to ensure the service and repair community has input into the process so that industry needs are considered in any proposed process of qualifying an individual to provide automotive diagnostic and repair services, or how it may relate to security issues.

Heavy-Duty Training at NACE | CARS

We've set the trainers and topics for the heavy-duty training track at NACE | CARS Aug. 9-13 in Anaheim, Calif. Dean Hancock will be presenting a four-hour session on heavy-duty estimating, and Chuck Miller from Bendix and Steve Lawrence from Meritor WABCO will each offer a one-hour class on HD vehicle control systems. The MOC is continuing the dialogue with the HD community to explore ways ASA can help address the challenges being faced in this segment of our industry.

Thanks for all you do!

We can't sign off without thanking all of our volunteer leadership, whose enthusiasm, talent and dedication to excellence represents the best our industry has to offer. Your hard work benefits both ASA and our industry at large, and we can't say enough how much it is appreciated.

Automotive Service Association®
8209 Mid Cities Blvd.
North Richland Hills, Texas 76182
817.514.2900 • Fax 817.581.3572
asainfo@asashop.org • www.ASAsShop.org

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