



Automotive Service Association®

LEGISLATIVE NEWS



A bimonthly news update from ASA's legislative activities.

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Recent activities of ASA's Washington, D.C., office ...

ASA Talks Telematics in D.C.

ASA's mechanical leaders met with members of Congress and staff to discuss telematics and new vehicle technologies. ASA members updated their representatives on the importance of these new technologies to independent automotive repairers and consumers and the efforts of the automotive industry to work together.

Donny Seyfer, ASA chairman stated, "The federal government has repeatedly called for industry input as they address these new technologies. To that end, ASA is proud to lead the collaborative effort to assure workable solutions for independent repairers. We firmly believe that this kind of collaborative rule making is the most effective way to benefit all stakeholders."

ASA will host the third annual Technology & Telematics Forum at NACE | CARS 2016 on August 12.

ASA Briefed on New Vehicle Technologies

ASA leaders heard from Bob Kreeb, division chief, Intelligent Technologies Research Division, at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in a Capitol Hill briefing. Kreeb outlined NHTSA's work on telematics, connected vehicles and the ensuing security and privacy implications and fielded questions relative to the future of independent repairers in relation to new vehicle technologies.

Congress Asked to Intervene on MFN Clauses

ASA's collision leaders met with key members of Congress and staff to discuss the impact of most favored nation (MFN) clauses included in some direct repair agreements (DRP).

Under an MFN clause, an insurer is guaranteed that it will receive prices that are at least as favorable as those provided to other carriers doing business with the collision repair facility for the same products or services. ASA members gave real-life examples of the effects of the MFN clause on collision repair shops, consumers and non-MFN insurance providers.

ASA President and Executive Director Dan Risley said, "We were encouraged by the receptive response on Capitol Hill. MFN clauses have been adversely impacting the collision repair industry for many years, and I feel confident that we are getting closer to a solution. Resolving issues of this scale requires time and persistence. As the voice of the industry in our nation's Capitol, ASA is committed to seeing them removed from all direct repair agreements."

OSHA Releases Crystalline Silical Rule

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released its final rule on occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica. The rule consists of two standards, one for construction and the other for general industry and maritime. The final rule contains the following provisions:

- Reduces the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for respirable crystalline silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over an eight-hour shift.
- Requires employers to: use engineering controls such as water or ventilation to limit worker exposure to the PEL; provide respirators when engineering controls cannot adequately limit exposure; limit worker access to high-exposure areas; develop a written exposure control plan; offer medical exams to highly exposed workers; and train workers on silica risks and how to limit exposures.
- Provides medical exams to monitor highly exposed workers and gives them information about their lung health.
- Provides flexibility to help employers, especially small businesses, protect workers from silica exposure.

Automotive repairers are encouraged to review the rule as to the impact on their business practices. The rule will take effect June 23, 2016. To view the full text of the new rule, go to www.TakingTheHill.com.

ASA Attends Driverless Vehicle Forums

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) held two recent forums, one in Washington, D.C., and another at Stanford University, seeking public input on planned guidelines for the safe deployment and operation of automated vehicles.

Specifically, NHTSA requests comments on the evaluation and testing of automated vehicle scenarios, detection and communication of operational boundaries, data recording capabilities, crash avoidance, identification of voluntary industry standards and several other topics.

NHTSA is accepting written comments on this topic through May 9, 2016. To submit a comment, go to <https://goo.gl/I5s8Nk>.

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