



Automotive Service Association®

MECHANICAL OPS NEWS

A bimonthly news update from ASA's Mechanical Division.

November/December 2015



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

The Mechanical Division Operations Committee (MOC) is continuing its work on several projects as it moves into 2016, including a proposal for a Periodic Motor Vehicle Inspection (PMVI) best-practices document to explore the creation of a generic program profile that can be used across the country in those areas that do not currently have a formal safety inspection program.

As part of this process, MOC members attended the PMVI Forum, hosted by Hunter Engineering in St. Louis, Mo., on Dec. 2. The program was well-attended and provided insight and information from several state administrators who shared details on the structure and effectiveness of their periodic inspection programs. The participants generally agreed that, while the data was hard to quantify, they remained convinced of the value such programs provide in protecting the welfare of motorists sharing the roads.

Among the issues identified in the forum was the need for more shared information on vehicle accidents between states, regardless of whether or not they have a local PMVI program. Several attendees suggested following up with other, non-governmental groups such as insurance companies and the Car Care Council to explore ancillary data that those groups collect that may provide insight and identify potentially significant differences that could shed some light on the effectiveness of PMVI programs nationwide.

Technician and Shop Licensing

The Mechanical Division Operations Committee is also working with our Washington representative and several committee members to continue the investigation into the value of technician and shop licensing. This issue has been raised most recently in connection with discussions in the area of 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.

Additional concerns have been raised in discussions about vehicle security and telematics, where those individuals responsible for servicing a vehicle have access to sensitive or security-related information or data in the course of vehicle diagnosis and repair.

The MOC is currently reviewing information with an eye toward providing input from the service and repair community into the process to ensure that industry needs are considered in any proposed process of qualifying an individual to provide automotive diagnostic and repair services.

Auto Care Employment Website

The MOC continues to work with the Auto Care Association to enhance its automotive careers website, which is designed to connect our member shops with qualified job candidates. ASA will be represented at a meeting on Jan. 12, 2016, at Auto Care headquarters in Bethesda, Md., to provide input and feedback on the career website.

Heavy-Duty Update

We are in the process of identifying trainers and topics for a heavy-duty training track at NACE | CARS in Anaheim, Calif., in 2016. Plans call for both mechanical and collision repair topics focused on the specific needs of the independent heavy-duty (HD) service and collision repair community. Tentative topics already identified include sessions on wheel-end service, vehicle control systems, estimating and structural repair. The MOC will continue its dialog with the HD community into 2016 to further explore ways the organization can help address the challenges being faced in that segment of our industry.

Happy New Year!

From all of us at ASA and the Mechanical Division Operations Committee, we wish you a successful new year. We also want to thank 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.

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