

## The Road to OEM CERTIFICATIONS

At present, the majority of Auto Manufacturers have introduced their own “OEM Certified Collision Repair Programs”. The simple truth is that vehicles manufactured today are far too complex and sophisticated to be repaired with the same technology of just a few years ago. The OEM Certified Collision Repair Programs exist to ensure that their vehicles are repaired according to their exacting OEM standards. They want to protect the consumer, and they also want to protect their brand name. If one of their vehicles was improperly repaired it could reflect poorly upon them. Case in point: the 2010 Honda Fit with the multi-million dollar judgement awarded to the couple that were injured due to faulty collision repairs! For more information on the 2010 Honda Fit that appeared in the first edition of **ABARI *Collision* News** [CLICK HERE](#)

### Why is OEM Certification Important?

Any shop that has serious intentions of staying in the Auto Collision Repair Business should be thinking about obtaining OEM Certification. The Collision Repair Industry is changing with an unbelievable intensity as production technology advances. More and more, the owners of these vehicles will be informed about these Certified Collision Repair Programs and directed towards them. For example: After a GM vehicle is involved in a collision, GM’s Collision Repair Network and in conjunction with OnStar, will educate and help GM vehicle owners locate facilities that are part of their Collision Repair Network Program. It is inevitable that other vehicle manufacturers will follow suit. CCC just announced the roll-out of their CCC OEM CARE Solutions. This is a suite of solutions intended to help support existing OEM Certification programs in order for auto collision repair facilities, auto manufacturers, and insurers work together to achieve quality (safe) repairs. CCC already has a website that supports about 5 million visits annually. This site supports a shop locator system that is linked to OEM certification programs. This is just another example of how your customer can and will be directed towards an OEM Certified Collision Facility. To learn more about the CCC OEM CARE Solutions [CLICK HERE](#)

### Is OEM Certification available to Class B Shops?

**YES!** There are some Rhode Island Collision shops that do hold OEM Certifications but are not licensed in Rhode Island as a Class A Shop. The class A license is not a requirement of any OEM Certified Collision Repair Program. There are basically two types of OEM Certification Repair Programs. There are programs that are designed for Structural Aluminum Repair and those that are not. At the present time there are only a few automakers that produce vehicles with structural aluminum.

## How does a shop obtain OEM Certification?

The most widely used method of achieving this goal is through Assured Performance. ASSURED PERFORMANCE™ is a designated third party administrator that offers OEM Certifications with various manufacturers. To learn more about ASSURED PERFORMANCE™ [CLICK HERE](#)

To view the Assured Performance™ Minimum Certification Requirement [CLICK HERE](#) Please note that one of the main requirements under “General Technical Repair Capability” is that shops must: Meet I-CAR® Gold Class® or equivalent with proof of ongoing technical training (assessment required).

The general price structure that Assured Performance™ quoted as of March 2018 was as follows:

- \$3,950.00 Certification processing Fee
- \$1,000.00 Nissan Certification Fee
- \$1,000.00 Infiniti Certification Fee
- \$500.00 Fiat Chrysler Certification Fee
- \$500.00 Ford Certification Fee (Ford also certifies for Aluminum)
- \$250.00 Kia Certification Fee
- \$100.00 Hyundai Certification Fee

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\$7,100.00 Total if Certified by All Brands

There is also an annual maintenance fee of about \$4,000.00 +/- that is charged by Assured Performance™ to maintain the OEM Certifications.

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## General Motors just announced their own

### GM Collision Repair Network

- The annual program fee for the GM Collision Repair Network is quoted at \$1,495.00. All CORE requirements must be met. There is an onsite audit inspection.
- The GM Collision Repair Network Program is separate from the Cadillac Aluminum Repair Network.

To get some additional information on this GM Collision Repair Network program [CLICK HERE](#)

## The next Step - The Rhode Island Class A License

The choice for a Class B shop to transition over to the Class A license is basically a business decision. It does require a financial investment, and also the Certification from at least one Automobile Manufacturer. At the present time there is no great separation between what a Class A shop is paid vs. that of the Class B shop. This could change in the future.

The overwhelming majority of shops that currently hold the A license did so by going through [ASSURED PERFORMANCE™](#) The key OEM Certification offered by Assured Performance™ would be from FORD, as this auto manufacturer provides the required “aluminum” certification.

There are also various Automobile Manufacturers that have their own Certified Aluminum Repair programs.

The Department of Business Regulations requires these additional requirements for the Class A License.

- a. Certification for the repair and refinishing of aluminum, high strength steel, and other metal or alloy, by at least one Automobile Manufacturer. Proof of certification will be accepted by the Department provided it is directly from the Automobile Manufacturer or its designated third party administrator;
- b. A written lifetime warranty on repairs that is valid against workmanship defects;
- c. Evidence of the existence of a system for documenting customer complaints; and
- d. Evidence of certification, pursuant to Commercial Licensing Regulation 16, of all Technicians in all seven (7) areas.



You should NOT be Ignoring OEM Certification Programs

They are here to STAY - They will not go AWAY!