



Major Change to Australian Repair Industry

As 2012 draws to a close, there have been some significant changes that have required increased compliance by Industry stakeholders in the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry.

Still, the most significant change in the last couple of years has been the successful implementation of NSW Statutory Write-Off laws. These laws are now being mirrored or are in the process of being developed for other jurisdictions.

The Australian Capital Territory has just recently implemented their new laws that will significantly improve consumer protection along the same lines as the NSW statutory write off legislation.

With the release of the new Damage Assessment criteria (produced by AusRoads and the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council) which has been in development by Industry stakeholders such as MTA NSW for several years, will again require compliance by Industry stakeholders to adhere to these tougher protection measure to further improve the safety and viability of our Industry.

Severely curtailing and one day eliminating the criminal element in the profit driven illegal business of “dealing in stolen recovered vehicles” which these crime gangs were using “written off repairable vehicles” to hide the identity of stolen vehicles has been a top priority for many law enforcement agencies and the Trade Associations across Australia.

It is fair to say now that NSW legislation and the support shown overwhelmingly by MTA NSW has lead the way in curtailing this activity in our State and which has been a source of inspiration to develop a new criteria for the assessment of damaged vehicles Australia wide.

Currently Auto Skills International (on behalf of AusRoads and the NMVTRC) has implemented training across Australia that will require compliance on a National basis for all jurisdictions and Industry stakeholders. Auto Skills International convenes training sessions on the New Damage Assessment Criteria for the Classification of Statutory Written-Off vehicles. Training focuses on the application of the new damage assessment criteria that was introduced by the NSW Roads and Marine Services on September 1st 2012 for Passenger Light Commercial vehicles.

Progressive implementation of the new damage assessment criteria is expected to be rolled out across Australia between September 2012 and February 2013.

Jurisdictions that have confirmed commencement dates so far are:

- 1 September – South Australia
- 3 September – New South Wales
- 1 November – Victoria

Most jurisdictions are expected to be rollout by the end of what MTA NSW has dubbed “The year of Industry Compliance 2012”.