



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Automotive Service Association (ASA) Adds Its Name To SCRS Two-Way Communication Petition

Largest national body shop associations join together to show industry's united front on the issue.

Prosser, WA, January 20, 2005 — The Automotive Service Association (ASA), the largest national trade organization representing both the collision repair and automotive service industries, has stepped forward to endorse the Society of Collision Repair Specialists' (SCRS) petition in support of two-way communication between like estimating systems. The participation of ASA means that the three largest national collision repair associations in the U.S. (the Alliance of Automotive Service Providers is the other) have joined forces to drive a more open approach to the electronic transmission of estimate-related information.

The SCRS petition was initially drawn up and circulated at NACE 2004, and rapidly gained momentum throughout the industry. SCRS is asking the information providers to offer the ability to send and receive assignment information, estimates, supplements or attachment(s) between one or more service providers (repairer, insurer, appraiser, etc.) that have the same estimating software. The requested functionality is to be provided regardless of whether a DRP relationship exists between the companies wishing to communicate.

“Two-way communication is far overdue in our industry,” says Darrell Amberson, AAM, Collision Division Director for ASA. “Insurance companies continue to look for efficiencies and cost containment and too often shop efficiency is secondary. It must be recognized that improving shop efficiency is a benefit for all, including the mutual customer.”

SCRS shares similar feelings about the fundamental necessity of two-way communication to facilitate the industry's daily business of serving the customer. “The unprecedented industry-wide cooperation on this issue speaks volumes about its critical importance to everyone,” says Lou DiLisio, SCRS Chairman. “We hope that this unprecedented unified effort will effect positive change in the very near future. It is, perhaps, the finest example yet of how ‘Working Together Is The Most Important Work We Do.’”

The Automotive Service Association is the largest not-for-profit trade association of its kind, serving an international membership base that includes numerous affiliate, state and chapter groups from all segments of the automotive service industry, including the collision repair industry. The organization advances professionalism and excellence in the automotive repair industry through education, representation and member services. It is headquartered in Bedford, Texas.

Through its direct members and 30 affiliate associations, SCRS is comprised of 5,000 collision repair businesses and 58,500 specialized professionals who work with consumers and insurance companies to repair collision-damaged vehicles. Additional information about SCRS including news releases is available at the SCRS web site: www.scrs.com. You can e-mail SCRS at the following address: scrs1@aol.com.

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