

## I-CAR Canada Follows Training and Recognition Advances

John Van Alstyne, CEO and President of I-CAR, announced a number of major upgrades to the industry's core training and recognition program last month at NACE. These included changes to the Professional Development Program curriculum which lies at the heart of Platinum individual and Gold Class shop recognition, as well an increase in the requirements for these recognition levels. New payment and Industry Training Alliance models were introduced, as was a move to three-year welding certification renewals, down from the current five years.

The wholesale revision to the I-CAR program was backed by a two-year consultation with vehicle manufacturers, insurers, suppliers and repairers, and is a coherent and forward-looking answer to rapid advances in vehicle complexity and repair methods.

I-CAR Canada will be adopting the vast majority of these changes. At the same time, our collision repair industry will benefit from the "Canadian approach" made possible by the creation of I-CAR Canada, as a licensor of the program, in 2010. At that time it was recognized by all major Canadian partners that our geography, our unique industry structure, our language and our education systems necessitated some national customization. This approach will continue with some paths determined and some yet to be decided upon:

- The 'granularization' of the curriculum, allowing trainees to choose more specific courses with less redundancy, will be followed almost identically in Canada. This will reduce role training requirements by between 8% and 30% in terms of training hours.
- As in the US, Canada's "Gold Class in Progress" category will be terminated in 2019.
- Many of the US changes to Gold Class recognition will be adopted here, including the addition of a "Gold Class – Aluminum" category. In other areas, Canada's leadership in setting the highest standards for Gold Class recognition will remain unchanged.
- The move from five-year welding certification to three years will be mirrored here in Canada, as all industry stakeholders recognize the critical role of welding in collision repair.
- I-CAR US has offered a subscription course purchase model, based on a pool of some 32,000 shops. This is a difficult approach to adopt in a market one-tenth the size, and I-CAR Canada will instead look for ways to increase the predictability of spending on training and reduce the time spent on transactions.
- Finally, I-CAR US has adjusted the Industry Training Alliance program to broaden the role of suppliers in delivering repair knowledge – Canada will follow suit.

Many of the details of these changes will be worked out through the Fall – stay up to date by visiting [www.i-car.ca](http://www.i-car.ca).



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