

## **I-CAR Canada Changes for 2019**

As introduced in our last article, I-CAR Canada will be making a series of changes to training and recognition following the direction of I-CAR US announced in August at NACE. These directions are driven by the vehicle manufacturers, insurers and suppliers who constitute the core of I-CAR, and ultimately by changes in vehicle repair techniques and technologies. Following are some details on these changes, which will take effect on January 1, 2019 except as noted.

- I-CAR's welding certifications will be in effect for three years, down from the current five. Anyone achieving their certification before Jan 1, 2019 will still have the five year certification.
- Gold Class definitions and requirements will be changing. All structural technicians must be Platinum recognized, and 50% of all other staff must be Platinum as well. One technician will be able to hold a maximum of two roles, down from the current four. Shops will have a full year (until January 1, 2020) to move to the new standard with no loss of Gold Class status.
- Shops who lose an employee will have a full year to once again meet their recognition requirements, without Gold Class status being affected.
- Gold Class in Progress will be eliminated as a recognition category, with no applications taken after January 1, 2019.
- A new "Gold Class – Aluminum" recognition will be established, requiring all structural technicians to take structural aluminum training.
- Shops will no longer have to apply (and pay) to have supplier training added to technician transcripts – this will be done automatically and at no cost if the supplier belongs to the new I-CAR Canada Industry Training Alliance program.

Around the end of the Q1, 2019, repairers will see a significant change to the on-line training courses offered by I-CAR. Where currently we have some 100 courses, mostly of 3-4 hours duration, the new set-up will see about 320 courses in the 1 -2 hour range. This shift has several advantages – it helps technicians pursue training before work, at lunch or after work and it helps managers choose exactly the skill or technical area they want staff to engage in. Perhaps most importantly, it removes redundancy in course materials. This will reduce role training requirements by between 8% and 30% in terms of training hours.

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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