



July
2021

Industry Update

*News and Information for
Northwest Automotive Trade Association
Members*

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New law aims to cut catalytic converter theft

No doubt everyone reading this knows someone who has had their catalytic converter stolen from their vehicle (maybe even yours). Stealing and selling catalytic converters is relatively fast, easy and lucrative.



In an effort to stop (or at least reduce) this proliferating market, Senator Chris Gorsek (D-Gresham) a former Portland Police Officer, introduced Senate Bill 803. Senator Gorsek worked closely with newly-elected Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt on the legislation.

A work group, including the District Attorney and industry lobbyists (NATA lobbyist Darrell Fuller was at the table starting from Day 1) spent many hours substantially improving the bill. Fuller was one of two industry lobbyists (the other was Justin Short from ISRI) who worked closely with the DA to draft language and make final changes to the bill. Fuller was also asked to testify on behalf of the industry in front of legislative committees as the bill progressed through the process.

"This will be a significant change to how dismantlers do business," Fuller admitted. "But catalytic converter thefts are all over the news. A bill was going to pass. We were able to make a lot of changes on behalf of the industry."

Senate Bill 803-B was signed into law by Governor Brown on June 23. It becomes effective on January 1, 2022. The law creates new paperwork requirements surrounding the purchase and sale of catalytic converters. The goal is to stymie the ever-growing black market.

NATA members will face four changes starting January 1:

1. Dismantlers will no longer be able to sell catalytic converters in exchange for cash. The purchaser must use a traceable form of payment, including checks, credit and debit cards, or EFT payments;
2. Catalytic converters will become a "major component part" under ORS 822.137. This means dismantlers will need to track the acquisition and sale of catalytic converters with a stock or yard number, including providing an itemized list of converters (by stock or yard number) when selling them;
3. Dismantlers will be prohibited from purchasing detached catalytic converters that are not part of a motor vehicle purchase; and
4. Dismantler employees selling catalytic converters to a purchaser will need to provide the purchaser with a copy of current government ID, and sign a document stating, "I, _____, AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF LAW THAT THE PROPERTY I AM SELLING IN THIS TRANSACTION IS NOT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, STOLEN PROPERTY."

This legislation is complex. Hundreds of hours went in to the negotiation process. NATA worked hard to reduce the impact on dismantlers. Beyond the intentional impacts, it is always possible new legislation could have unintended consequences. As your business implements the new rules created by SB803-B, please let NATA know how the new law is impacting your business. We are especially interested in any interactions you may have related to catalytic converters with DMV, your local DA or a law enforcement agency.

Fuller also reports that NATA was part of a large business coalition strongly opposing SB139-A, which trims back a tax break for qualified owners of pass-through businesses (such as sole proprietors, partnerships and S corps), but the bill was passed by both chambers of the Oregon Legislature and is expected to be signed into law by the Governor.

Join NATA for a farewell, and a welcome

Please join your NATA colleagues on August 8 to wish Cathi Webb farewell as she begins her retired life in Yuma, Arizona. And to welcome NATA's new insurance agent Diana Hildenbrand.

Mark your calendar for a casual gathering: no agenda, just come when you can, mingle, enjoy some food and beverages.

NATA will take care of your meal and non-alcoholic beverages (up to two meals per member). Live music will be provided by Ten O'Clock Hill, with band member Bill Erickson of Erickson's Automotive.

It all takes place from Noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 8 at the Corner 14 Foodcarts, 508 14th Street, in Oregon City. [Click here](#) for a flier about the gathering. Hope to see you there!



Guidance for employers as Oregon reopens

What does the lifting of state COVID-19 restrictions, here's some of what Oregon businesses should know.

"Masks will largely no longer be required by the state, with the exception of places the federal government has outlined are still necessary, such as airports, public transit and health care settings," Governor Kate Brown said. "No more physical distancing."



Governor Brown also stated that vaccine verification will no longer be necessary. However, Governor Brown urged unvaccinated and other vulnerable individuals to continue wearing masks and practicing other preventative measures to stay safe from COVID-19. Businesses will still be allowed to keep their own rules in place.

Since children under 12 are still not eligible for vaccination, there will also be measures in place for school and child care settings. You can read more about

those details [here](#).

While the rules apply to everyone, health officials recommend people who aren't vaccinated continue to wear masks when indoors. About 30% of adult Oregonians have yet to get at least one shot of the vaccine.

Oregon's Employment Department has a [page of guidance](#) for businesses who have called an employee back to work but he or she has chosen not to return and continue receiving unemployment benefits.

Another COVID safety concern: workplace impairment. The pandemic has worsened many underlying causes of workplace impairment, including drug and alcohol use, fatigue, and chronic stress.

Some sobering statistics:

- 54% of essential workers said they relied on unhealthy habits to get through the COVID crisis.
- 1 in 4 adults reported drinking more during the past year to manage their stress.
- Alcohol and marijuana sales rose by as much as 44% in the early months of Oregon's lockdown.

Diagnosing impairment is difficult, especially when many employees are still working remotely. Here are some ways employers can help:

Focus on behavior. Be aware of changes in work performance such as consistent lateness, absenteeism, or reduced productivity. Review expectations regularly and address problems as soon as they arise.

Show compassion and sensitivity. Make sure workers are aware of available resources, including an employee assistance plan, mental health benefits, and substance abuse supports.

Offer flexibility, when possible. For an employee with disrupted sleep due to competing work-life demands, flexible work hours may be a better solution than a sleep hygiene class.

For more from SAIF on recognizing and responding to workplace impairment, [click here](#).

OEMs share new procedures for body shops

Ford's latest issue of "[On Target](#)" includes information about the automaker's new position statement on repairing bumper fascias with ADAS, as well as information on new videos related to OEM glass and ADAS camera calibrations.

General Motors has rolled out a significant overhaul of the vehicle inspections it calls for, post-collision. While the automaker previously had a long list of such inspections it required "after any collision," it now [says](#) most inspections are necessary only after "any collision that exceeds minor outer body panel cosmetic distortion." This eliminates the need for some "pretty invasive" steps like "removing the headliner or...dash, or measuring a steering column, when all you're doing is replacing a fascia without any structural repair," John Eck, collision manager for GM, said.



One exception: GM wants “every seat belt of every [GM] vehicle inspected every time” a vehicle is in for repairs, “regardless of the [crash] severity level or what’s being done” to the vehicle.

The [document](#) applies for all GM vehicles, though it has been integrated into GM’s online repair procedures only for 2021 and 2022 models so far. Use the search term “inspection” to find the document in GM’s online system for those vehicles. Until it is integrated with the repair information for older vehicles, it can be downloaded at the www.genuineGMParts.com website.

Eck emphasized that the inspection document in no way replaces any of the needed vehicle repair procedures such as scanning or calibrations. “This is simply talking about what you should be inspecting during the repair process,” he said. “It is only part of the process. It doesn’t replace any of the other requirements we may have.”

Dividend information from SAIF

Earlier this year, the SAIF board of directors declared a \$210 million dividend to be distributed in July 2021 to policyholders based on their premium for policies whose term ended in 2020.



Dividend information was available to policyholders as of June 30.

Policyholders who do not have any current or past due balances, as of end of the day June 28, will receive a check for their full dividend amount. As with last year, if the policyholder has a current or past due balance on their account, SAIF will automatically apply the dividend toward that balance. If the dividend amount is greater than the current and/or past due balance, a check will be generated for the remainder of the dividend. This applies to both active and canceled policies.

SAIF is able to pay dividends because of solid investment returns and continued success in managing workplace safety and health and controlling losses. More than 50,000 policyholders will receive the dividend.

News from Oregon DEQ

Here are a couple of news items from Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality.

You can learn about DEQ's "Diesel Emissions Mitigation Grant" and how to apply for funding by visiting the DEQ Diesel Emissions Mitigation

Grants webpage [here](#). You'll find background on the grant, as well as the following resources:

- Diesel Emissions Reduction fact sheet
- Diesel Emissions Reduction User Guide



Applications for the 2021 grants must be received by DEQ no later than 5 p.m. on August. 31 for the first round of funding. For more information, please contact Gerik

DEQ is also seeking public comment as it asks the Environmental Quality Commission to approve rule amendments to OAR Chapter 340 of its administrative rules related to hazardous waste.

In this rulemaking, DEQ proposes to align its hazardous waste rules with the federal rules. These changes would enable Oregon to ask EPA to continue authorizing Oregon to operate its RCRA hazardous waste program in lieu of EPA. To ensure DEQ issues fair and appropriate civil penalties for non-compliance of the adopted rules, DEQ is also including proposed changes to Division 12 enforcement rules with this rulemaking.

DEQ is asking for public comment on the proposed rules. Anyone can submit comments and questions about this rulemaking. A person can submit comments by email, regular mail or at the public hearing. DEQ will only consider comments on the proposed rules that DEQ receives by 4 p.m., on Friday, August 13.

Any person can submit comments by sending an email. Commenters should include "Rulemaking Comment" in the email subject line. Submit emails to: hazwaste2021@deq.state.or.us

For a postal address for comments, or details on two public hearings on the proposed rulemaking, [click here](#).

WrenchWay offers 'Reverse Jobs Posts'

WrenchWay has announced it is flipping the traditional job board around — allowing shops to browse technicians in their area who are open to new job opportunities, allowing shops to reach out to them. The new tool is called, "[Reverse Job Posts](#)."

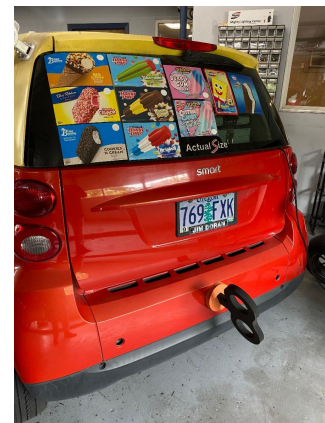


"We only ask that you be a little patient," WrenchWay said in the announcement. "This is a new tool, so it may take a little time before there are technicians in your area. We promise we're working hard to get as many technicians as possible using Reverse Job Posts."

Remember that as an NATA member benefit, WrenchWay waives the set-up fee for "WrenchWay Top Shops."

Another way to give back

Auto Pros Car Care in Oregon City has found a way to give back: Take a Smart car, paint it to look like a Little Tikes Cozy Coupe, install a small freezer in the back and you have an ice cream cart! Ryan Buchanan and his crew at Auto



Pros thought it'd be fun to turn this car into an ice cream cart. Ryan is invited to various charitable events where he brings his Lil Tyke Cart stocked full of frozen treats. All the money he receives is given to the event. He says "It's all about giving back. We have a lot of fun with it."

Electric vehicle educational tool

Use the links below to check out this great new training tool at Clackamas Community College. This will be introduced to students and used for community outreach on electric vehicle education. The funds for this amazing piece of equipment are provided through a grant from Portland General Electric!



[The Switch Lab™ | An Electric Vehicle for Education](#)

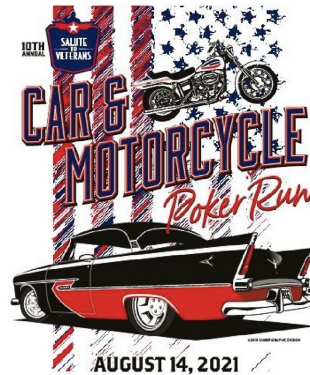
[Lucas Nülle - Car Train "Hybrid and Electric Vehicles" \(lucas-nuelle.us\)](#)

[Lucas Nülle - CarTrain "Diagnosis and Maintenance of a High Voltage Battery" \(lucas-nuelle.us\)](#)

Mark your calendar for upcoming events

Here are just a few of the events you might want to put on your calendar!

The 10th annual Salute to Veterans Car & Motorcycle Poker Run will take place August 14 from Tualatin to Beaverton. [Click here](#) for a flier about the event.



On November 1 in Las Vegas, the Automotive Service Association is hosting the [Congress of Automotive Repair & Service \(CARS\) Executive Outlook](#), a live industry event that will also exclusively feature the 7th Annual Technology & Telematics Forum. The one-day CARS Executive Outlook is designed specifically for mechanical repair shop owners and their managers. ASA will also be running a parallel program co-located with the MSO Symposium for the collision industry at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino.

AAPEX is now accepting nominations for the second annual Shop Owner of the Year, Service Advisor of the Year and Technician of the Year awards. The awards recognize and elevate the essential services that auto repair professionals provide to keep the world's 1.4 billion vehicles on the road. [AAPEX 2021](#) will take place November 2-4, at the Sands Expo and Caesars Forum Conference Center in Las Vegas. Nominations are due Wednesday, Sept. 1, and should be submitted online at: www.aapexshow.com/serviceawards

SEMA organizers say more than 1,200 companies are already confirmed to exhibit at the event at the Las Vegas Convention Center on November 2-5. Attendee registration for SEMA can be found [here](#).

Obituary: Fred Stanwood

NATA was saddened to learn of the recent death of Fred Stanwood at age 69. Fred worked at Oil Filter Service Company for 15 years before buying the business. At the time of his passing, he was just transitioning to retirement life after selling the business earlier this year, 50 years after he began working there. A complete obituary for Fred can be found [here](#).



New offer from NATA Credit Card Processing

Now when you try NATA's Credit Card Processing Program for one month, the terminal is free...and if you don't see a savings, unplug it and return it! No early termination fees and no penalties. What do you have to lose?



NATA members can take advantage of this great credit card processing program with Bobby Walker. Your processing fee will be as low as 1%.

NATA members have called and emailed to thank NATA for this money-saving program. One NATA member called to tell the NATA office that he is saving over \$35,000.00 a year in service fees!

Call Bobby Walker at (541) 780-4242 or call your NATA office for more information.

Links of the month...

Here's a collection of links you may find of use or interest this month:

- NATA associate member Carson Wealth in late June posted an interesting [market commentary](#) on the state of home sales, wages and inflation.
- The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) has added a new Spanish-language option to its [ASE.com](#) website.
- Body shops can complete the latest quarterly "Who Pays for What?" survey, which is now open through the month of July and focuses on "not-included" frame and mechanical labor operations. Shops can take the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L3H3JQP>
- Oregon's DMV is continuing to expand services and increase choices for Oregonians who need services – online, by appointment and in person. "If the last time you visited DMV was before the pandemic, maybe you wished you could have gotten your service online," DMV Administrator Amy Joyce said. "Now you can. Many more services are available now at DMV2U." Read the latest on DMV online and in-person services [here](#).
- The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs offers lots of great information



related to healthcare benefits and other programs for Oregon vets. Check it out [here](#).

Oregon agencies offer business training

Three Oregon agencies offer regular training for companies within the state.

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) offers training seminars on such topics as wage and hour laws, discipline and discharge, and the latest developments in employment law. Details are available by [clicking here](#).



The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites businesses that handle hazardous waste to sign up for a class covering basic management of such waste. Registration is free but on a first-come, first-served basis. [Click here](#) for more details.

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers classroom workshops and online training on such topics as hazard communications, safety meetings, lockout/tagout, personal protective equipment, etc. [Click here](#) for current class description and schedule, call (888) 292-5247 (option 2) or send an email to ed.web@oregon.gov.

EDUCATION

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