

LOCAL SHOPS BEING INSPECTED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Ministry Staff Looking For Certificate of Approvals and Proof of Training

Inspection and abatement staffs from the Ministry of Environment and the Sector Enforcement Group are dropping into collision repair shops in the Hamilton area.

In the last two weeks, a number of shops have contacted the HARA office and collision repair industry help line at 1-866-309-4272 with requests for assistance.

In all inspections to date, Ministry staff found that although most activities at the shop were within compliance standards, the facility often did not possess a written Certificate of Approval. In a number of shops the required training was not completed. Any shop that receives a Certificate of Approval after May 2001 must complete a training course. (For further information contact 1-866-309-4272 or log onto www.autobodyhelp.ca under "Mandatory Training").

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment requires that every autobody or collision repair facility that spray paints vehicles or parts of vehicles possess a valid "Certificate of Approval (Air)".

This Certificate, issued under Section 9 of the Environmental Protection Act, gives government approval for emissions coming from your shop's paint booth, spray guns, and in some cases the gun wash stations, prep stations and paint mixing areas.

Shops need to prove that their emissions to the atmosphere are within prescribed limits. Shops use chemicals such as toluene, xylene and isocyanates that can be harmful or cause a nuisance to neighbours and must demonstrate that their emissions are within acceptable levels.

We understand that many shops have found the application package and Ministry requirements far too complex and they hired engineers or environmental consultants to complete and submit the application to the Ministry. Those shops were often charged \$3000.00 or more to prepare the application, in addition to the processing fee demanded by the Ministry.

www.autobodyhelp.ca recognized that shops were paying far too much for this service and we have negotiated a streamlined program for shops to save them money and time.

For further information and answers to your questions, please contact us at 1-866-309-4272.