

New MOE Screening Tool Saves Shops Time  
Written by Mike Davey

WINDSOR, ON -- July 7, 2008 -- As reported recently on [collisionrepairmag.com](http://collisionrepairmag.com), the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) has begun a pilot project designed to simplify applying for a Certificate of Approval – Air. According to Ontario law, any shop that emits to the atmosphere must obtain this certificate. It identifies the shop's level of emissions and potential environmental impact.

Emeryville Collision~CSN in Windsor, ON is one of the shops participating in the pilot project. Richard Marsh is one of the shop's co-owners. He says the new process is a big improvement over the old.

“About a month ago we were looking into a certificate for a new spray booth at our Tilbury location. I printed off a lot of pages of requirements from the MOE,” says Marsh. It's true the documentation involved with a Certificate of Approval – Air is pretty hefty, and includes the 64-page [Environmental Protection Act Section 9: Guide to Applying for Approval \(pdf\)](#) and the 51-page [Basic Comprehensive Certificate of Approval \(Air\): User Guide \(pdf\)](#).

Instead of having to go through all the material (and hire an engineer into the bargain as well), Marsh says there were only 27 questions to be answered, and the information was easily obtained.

“It took me an hour to get the information,” says Marsh. “We had some of the info already, and I made one phone call to make sure of the zoning classification. The rest of the information we requested from the booth manufacturer, and they got back to us with it the same day.”

The streamlined application system being piloted has apparently sped things up throughout the process, not just at the repairer end. According to John Norris of Collision Industry Information Assistance, the goal is to have applications from the association approved within about two weeks after a 30-day mandatory public posting on the MOE's Environmental Bill of Rights registry web site. This compares favourably with earlier wait times, which were often measured in months or even years.

“There's also some training to be done,” notes Marsh. “But it's on a CD and only takes a couple of hours.”

It is hoped that a web-based version of the screening tool will be made available after the completion of the pilot project. Shop owners wishing to participate in the program should contact the Hamilton Autobody Repair Association (HARA) or their paint company.

If your shop does not possess a valid certificate of Approval - or needs a new CofA to cover switching to waterborne coatings - please call your industry trade association or email [info@ciia.com](mailto:info@ciia.com).

