



**PLEASE READ THIS IF YOU ARE A COLLISION REPAIR  
SHOP OWNER/MANAGER OPERATING IN OAKVILLE, ONTARIO**

January 14, 2011

On December 20, the Town of Oakville amended their new Air Quality By-law to allow facilities more time to report. Your new reporting date is May 1, 2011.

*What's happening?*

The Town of Oakville has decided to be the first municipality in Canada to pass an air quality by-law. Although designed to reduce emissions of particulate matter, the by-law also includes a reporting requirement for any facility that emits more than 10 kg of VOCs from their stack. This would include virtually all collision repair and autobody repair shops that spray-paint cars in Oakville. A legal challenge to the by-law was dropped in January 2011, so the by-law is in effect.

*What does that mean to my shop?*

The HARA office is already receiving calls from Oakville body shops owners that have received visits from town staff advising them of their reporting requirements. Because the fine is up to \$100,000 for not reporting, we want to assist every shop with meeting this requirement. The Town of Oakville has asked that every shop simply report their figures from their emission summary and dispersion model of their provincial mandatory Certificate of Approval (CofA), however, many shops have not yet applied for waterborne paint approval through their CofA through HARA, and since late 2008, we have used a simplified and more inexpensive reporting method that does not use dispersion modeling. The town staff is now working with us on ways to solve this, as meeting the new Oakville reporting requirement could cost a shop between \$1500-2000 each to measure and forecast their emissions of VOC. We will report back to Oakville shops once we find what the town is prepared to do as they have stated publicly there should be little to no cost to our sector.

HARA is opposed to municipal regulation of air emissions and believes this to be a provincial responsibility covered in the mandatory Certificate of Approval. We will work with municipalities to lessen shop impact should a by-law be passed.

*There are some other issues however:*

Town staff wants each shop to work out a template measuring form that uses their natural gas consumption for the last three years and they want your records for the gas purchases in order to forecast particulate emissions.

The town has the right to determine what modeling or emission grading they wish to use and it can be different than the provincial model you may have used.

The town has the right to review any changes made in your facility that result in increased emissions and the right to identify that those changes may not be made.

The town has the right to define “VOC” as they see fit and it may not be the same as used currently by shops and Environment Canada at this time.

Some information indicates that a body shop with four or more bays may be considered a “major source” emitter, which involves a more complex review at the shop, and their report must be accompanied by a cheque for \$25,000 for the town fee. The town has the right to label the firm as a “nuisance” and post that information on their web site.

Emissions of VOC must be reported at any level over 10 kg, per year, while Mississauga and Hamilton do not require reporting and Toronto’s VOC reporting threshold level is 10 times higher, so the costs of reporting to one municipality and not another can lead to confusing and non-competitive issues.

As HARA continues to work with the Town of Oakville to reduce the impact of this by-law, we will keep you informed and updated. Please call our office at anytime for more information or to start your application for a mandatory provincial Certificate of Approval at 1-866-309-4272 or [johnnorris@cia.com](mailto:johnnorris@cia.com)

John Norris,

Executive Director