



**ONTARIO ANNOUNCES THEIR PLANS FOR NEW PROPOSED
ENVIRONMENTAL REGISTRATION FOR AUTO BODY SHOPS.
COMMENT PERIOD UNTIL MARCH 4, 2011**

January 24, 2011

The Ontario Ministry of Environment today announced a significant change in the environmental approvals program for shops that paint automobiles in this province. It is the first business sector in the province to be identified for this change.

This new process is more responsive to businesses, takes into considering industry association and paint company input, and takes advantage of current technology while addressing the increasing complex approvals process.

Many shops understand that the Ontario Ministry of Environment must approve any spray booth activity, including new equipment or even changing to the use of waterbased paints. This approval, known as a certificate or "Schedule 9 air permit" was mandatory and could be very complex. With input from the HARA trade association, the application forms were reduced from 82 pages to 11 pages and then placed online. Prices went down dramatically and the application process became easier, however, the shops still had to provide a large amount of information on their filters, air speed, stack height, booth and building size, paint used, distance separation from their neighbors and a number of other factors. HARA handled over 500 applications and was the pilot agency for the Ministry for their online form testing.

This new proposed process announced today would replace the Certificate of Approval with a "Registry" that the shop, if qualified, would simply sign and agree to maintain certain "standards". Shops that met "standards" such as a minimum stack height, 2 liters of paint use an hour or less, painting only from 7 am to 7 pm, a specific exit velocity or better from the stack and other requirements would be automatically registered. One of the most important changes is the proposal that if a shop sprays less than 2 liters of paint in an hour, then distance separation setbacks will not be required.

The province is also proposing the use of high efficiency spray guns, a training program and product and waste segregation.

If a shop were unable to meet these Registry standards then they would revert to the online approval form now in use. It is hoped that obtaining the necessary provincial authority to spraypaint will now take less than an hour, as opposed to the 8-10 weeks it takes now.

“We believe this new process will be faster, easier, cheaper and allows shops more time and money to spend on and concentrate on their business,” says HARA President Jerry Gerritsen.

A copy of the proposal can be reviewed on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry web site under EBR number 011-1959. Comments can be made to the Ministry or to the collision repair trade association at 1-866-309-4272 or info@cira.com. Further information and a copy of the proposal background information is available at www.autobodyhelp.ca under “News”.