

Directions

Motorist Assurance Program • 201 Park Washington Court • Falls Church, VA 22046 • (703) 532-2027 Fax: (202) 318-0378 • www.motorist.org

MAP e-Directions July 15, 2008

MAP & AMRA have moved! The MAP/AMRA office officially moved on June 30. We are now located at **201 Park Washington Court, Falls Church, VA 22046**. The main phone number is **(703) 532-2027**, while the fax number remains **(202) 318-0378**. Please make adjustments in your databases and please pass this information on to your Accounts Payable employees, so future correspondence is not disrupted. Thank you!

Deadline July 1, 2008 for “MAP Qualified” Associates – Under MAP 2.0 guidelines, each MAP Participating Facility is required to have a minimum of one “MAP Qualified” associate by July 1, 2008 (a deadline which recently passed). Service providers with MAP Participating Facilities should send a current listing of their “MAP Qualified” associates to MAP as soon as possible. If your associates have not yet taken the assessment test, please complete the process as soon as possible. To facilitate this requirement, MAP has developed a standardized assessment test. The questions are concept specific rather than component specific, and are designed as a single module for all technicians, managers, service advisors and counter personnel. If a MAP Qualified Assessment Test is not available through your company, individuals may access it at the MAP website at www.ttinao.com/motorist/login/index.php. The cost to take the assessment is only \$1. For more information on the Assessment Reporting contact Tim Tierney at tim@motorist.org.

MAP’s Brake Safety Awareness Week 2008 will once again take place this summer. The dates are **August 24-30, 2008**. Please place the event in your marketing calendars and plan to participate. MAP is currently seeking sponsors for consumer handout materials. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please let us know ASAP. Tenneco has agreed to produce the informative poster and distribute it, in reasonable quantities, to MAP Participating stores. In addition, we’ll again have a section on the MAP website for shops and one for consumers. Please contact Barry Soltz at barry@motorist.org for more information and to be a sponsor.

Technical Committee Meeting! Please mark your calendars with the following important MAP/AMRA gathering. The next Technical Committee meeting will be held **September 9-10 in St. Louis**. Hunter Engineering will be the host for the Tech Committee meeting at its facility, with lodging at the St. Louis Airport Marriott. Topics are expected to include finalization of the Maintenance UICS contents, tires and tire components/service and issues relating to HVAC and Hybrid/Diesel Fuel vehicles.

Annual Membership Meeting! This important meeting is scheduled for **November 3** at the Monte Carlo Hotel in Las Vegas. More information will be available as it comes closer, but please save the date!

Lodging in Las Vegas is filling quickly. If you are staying for the AAPEX, CARS or SEMA shows after the AMRA/MAP annual meeting on Monday, Nov. 3 we suggest you consider booking very soon. Desirable space is filling up fast. Lodging for 2008 Las Vegas meeting is available at www.aapexshow.com. Click on Housing and follow your choices.

MAP Logos available for use by members – As a member in good standing, MAP/AMRA members are reminded that official MAP logos are available for your use in helping to promote MAP in your business print advertisements, or on your company web site. If you are interested in using an official MAP logo, please contact Ben Trittipoe at ben@motorist.org for more information.

AMRA's State-By-State Review of Laws and Regulations affecting operations of auto service facilities nationwide is being revised. The publication, organized in chapters by state, will contain topics such as: customer disclosures; signage; equipment requirements; estimates, work orders and invoices; filter and materials management; licensing, certification and registration requirements; record retention; warranties and waste materials disposal management for those states that have applicable laws and regulations. Now is the time to suggest additional topics or categories and to sign up for an advance copy. Publication is anticipated by the annual meeting in November 2008.

EPA Updates Refrigerant Recovery Standard – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a Direct Final Rule, which would require that refrigerant recovery equipment used for vehicle air conditioner repair meet the Society for Automotive Engineers (SAE) standard J2810, replacing the current standard J1732. The change in standard was determined to be necessary as a result of testing by the SAE Improved Mobile Air Conditioning Cooperative Research Project, which discovered that as much as 30 percent of refrigerant remained in a motor vehicle air conditioning system when recovered with a J1732 compliant machine. Standard J2810 encompasses all of J1732 and adds performance standards requiring that the equipment recover 95 percent of the refrigerant from a vehicle within 30 minutes without prior engine operation or external heating at 21-24 degree Celsius ambient temperature (70-75 degrees Fahrenheit). The direct final rule does not require shops to replace their current recovery equipment, but does mandate that all new refrigerant recovery only equipment manufactured or imported into the U.S. meet the new SAE standard by October 31, 2008. *The rule will become effective on September 16, 2008, unless EPA receives adverse comment by July 18, 2008.* For a copy of the Direct Final Rule, contact Cael Pulitzer at AAIA by e-mail at cael.pulitzer@aftermarket.org.

Standard Mileage rates increased by IRS - The Internal Revenue Service announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2008. Taxpayers may use the optional standard rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. The rate will increase to 58.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven from July 1 - December 31, 2008. This is an increase of eight (8) cents from the 50.5 cent rate in effect for the first six months of 2008, as set forth in Rev. Proc. 2007-70.

Regulators have been offered MAP UICS, plus additional MAP materials. Please make certain that your service facilities are using the NEW 2008-09 MAP Uniform Inspection & Communication Standards (UICS). This will avoid embarrassment for both of us should an investigator bearing the current UICS (covering Brakes, DriveTrain, Electrical, Engine [incl. Exhaust], HVAC and Steering and Suspension) walks into your shop that is not using the current edition – believe me, it has happened in the past! If you have not received your 2008-9 UICS, the quickest way to get them is via download from the Members' Only section of the MAP website at www.motorist.org/uics/uics.htm.

Chinese-made Valve Stems Recalled – A distributor of Chinese-made tire valve stems has agreed to recall 6 million valve stems, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The TR413 model valve stems are manufactured by Shanghai Baolong Industries Co. Tech International, a Johnstown, Ohio-based distributor of the Chinese-made parts, announced the recall, offering free replacements and to pay for any tire damage caused by the defective part according to a June 2 letter made public on NHTSA's website. Tech International does not know who actually owns tires with the recalled tire valve stems, but it will notify tire retailers of the recall. The Chinese manufacturer conducted tests that showed that no valve stem produced after November 2006 was faulty, Tech International said. In its recall notice, Tech International said that the stems could crack and tires could gradually lose pressure after they had been in use for more than six months. It said it first received notice of "a small number of potential valve stem failures" from a distributor in January. Safety advocates urge motorists to inspect their valve stems for cracks and to check tire pressure.

In a separate move, the NHTSA has opened a preliminary investigation into 30 million Chinese-made "snap-in" tire valve stems in the wake of a Nov. 11, 2007, fatal crash. Those valve stems may have come out of the same Chinese factory that made the recalled valve stems distributed by Tech International, safety advocates said. NHTSA's investigation follows the death of Robert Monk of Orlando, Fla., who was killed when the

right rear tire of his 1998 Ford Explorer failed, triggering a rollover crash. The tire failure has been linked to a cracked Dill TR413 valve stem manufactured by Topseal, a subsidiary of Shanghai Baolong Dill Air Control Products, LLC. In March, the Monk family filed suit against North Carolina-based Dill Air Control Products, alleging that the defective tire valve stem caused the crash. On April 30, after receiving notice of the Monk crash, Dill officials met with NHTSA to discuss the problem. On May 2, Dill sent a Technical Bulletin to major tire retailers advising them that the company had received complaints of surface cracks appearing on the outside of the rubber near the rim hole in several models. Dill officials told NHTSA that valves – made from July 2006 to November 2006 – may leak from cracks caused by ozone exposure. *Source: Detroit News, 6/17/08.*

Tell a Colleague!

If you know another automotive professional who would be interested in receiving this newsletter, tell him or her to send an e-mail request to map@motorist.org with **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject line of the e-mail, or call 703-532-2027. His/her e-mail address will not be used for any other purpose, nor will it be given to anyone else. For more information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week about MAP, click on: www.motorist.org. Our mailing address is: 201 Park Washington Court, Falls Church, VA 22046. Fax: 202-318-0378.