

Drive Forward

in Motor Industry Skills Training - March
2009

Welcome to the Motor Industry Skills e-newsletter produced by the IMI, the Sector Skills Council for the retail motor industry.

We would like to send it to as many people and organisations as possible - if you know anyone who may like to receive it, please ask them to email anns@motor.org.uk with their details.

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Training funding for the automotive sector

The Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) has announced that automotive employers will be able to access skills support and increased funding via the Train to Gain scheme.



The IMI is working with training providers and employers to establish a route to obtain funding and are keen to establish further links with employers, to ensure the automotive sector can benefit from skills development that meets its requirements. The funding is allocated via a competitive tendering process and organisations who want to bid for this additional money can contact the IMI who, as the Sector Skills Council, will try and provide support as a named partner.

The LSC recently increased the flexibility of its eligibility criteria for access to Train to Gain funding. These new allowances apply to England only.

To read more [click here...](#) or email Sarah Whiteside-Jones sarahj@motor.org.uk

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Customer facing ATA routes

Improving and maintaining the customer facing side of any business is imperative. With the economic challenges facing the motor industry today, it has become more crucial that staff provide customers with the very best service to retain business and build relationships.



The major aim of ATA is to assess the standards within the industry and provide recognition to those who have the required skills. There are currently two offerings from ATA that will assess those who are usually the first point of contact in the motor industry:

[ATA Customer Service Advisor](#)

[ATA Parts Advisor](#)

More centres and training providers are needed to offer these ATA routes to allow the staff in the industry to be assessed. If you would like to become an ATA assessment centre for either of these routes, please click on the links above for more details and email Ian Cheetham, IMI Awards, at ianc@imiawards.org.uk

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NOS (National Occupational Standards) Update - Feb 09

The first suites of NOS covering Motorcycle Maintenance and Repair and Rental and Leasing have been completed and submitted for final approval. All further suites of draft NOS have also been submitted and assessment criteria for each suite are now being prepared.

A new suite of NOS is being considered in Caravan Maintenance and Repair in partnership with SkillsActive, and additional funding has also been requested to initiate NOS projects covering Valeting and Assessors/Trainers.

[Click here](#) to see an update on the current status of the NOS programme of work.

For further information contact Beverley Lilley on beverleyl@motor.org.uk

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Employment predictions for the automotive retail industry

Employment in the industry is projected to rise slightly (2) in the long term over the next decade, creating a further 11,000 new job opportunities in the industry.

In addition there will be a need to replace 213,000 existing workers as they leave the workforce for reasons such as retirement. This will create a forecast total of 224,000 job opportunities over the decade.

The occupations within the industry forecast to require the greatest number of new staff are 'sales and customer service' (66k) and 'managers and senior officials' (48k) from 2007-2017.

Skilled trade positions are predicted to fall overall in the industry, but it is expected that there will be a requirement for 15,000 new workers to replace staff who leave their jobs.

Over the next decade total employment in the UK is forecast to increase by 5.7% creating almost 2 million additional jobs.

Source, Working Futures Report 2007-2017, SSC UK Tables

<http://www.ukces.org.uk/default.aspx?page=4685>

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Training Quality Standard - Free Training Provider event 26 March, Canary Wharf, London

Are you interested in finding out how the Training Quality Standard (TQS) applies to your automotive training provision, or do you already know that you would like to achieve TQS Part B certification in Automotive Skills? If so, this event is for you! The event will include information about the key issues you will face and the range of available support, including access to brand new support materials. For further information on the Training Quality Standard go to www.trainingqualitystandard.co.uk or to book onto this event please contact Barry Poole via email: barry.poole@hotmail.com or telephone 07788 560868 if you have any questions.

Please note that this event is only available if you are an LSC funded training provider in England. However if you deliver training for the retail motor industry anywhere within the UK, are not LSC funded but are interested in the TQS and attending a similar event, please contact Adrian Lawson email: adrianl@motor.org.uk to express your interest.

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Important - Train the Trainer events for the body repair sector

The VBRA have developed a training programme aimed at teachers, trainers and assessors working in the body repair field. This covers an overview of the challenges facing the body repair industry and body repair workshops, along with training on structural adhesives, riveting systems and Boron (UHSS steels) awareness, repair and welding methods etc. The two day course also includes a presentation about British Standards welding certification.

Current available dates and venues are: Bridgwater College, Somerset on 19 and 20 May 2009 and Barnfield College, Luton on 28 May 2009. Cost is £149.00 + VAT per person per day plus an additional £25 for a Boron Awareness Training Certificate. For more information and to book on these courses go to www.vbra.co.uk or contact Gerry Braddock at the VBRA email: gerryb@vbra.co.uk

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Electronic Stability Programme Train the Trainer Events

The IMI have partnered with Bosch UK to organise a number of one day technical training events covering vehicle Electronic Stability Programme technology and diagnostics. This training is designed for teachers, trainers, lecturers and assessors and is to be held at various venues around the UK. The first available date is Dundee College, Scotland on 26 March. The cost of the course is £150 + VAT. For other dates and venues across the UK and to book on the course please [click here](#)

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Upskilling through industry placements

If you are a teacher, trainer or assessor and would like to upskill through industry experience, please [click here](#) to find details of industry placement schemes available across the UK.

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Young automotive stars selected for UK skills squad

It has been announced that five automotive young stars have been selected to be part of a squad of 60 skilled young people, with the hopes that they will be ready to take on the very best in the world at the biggest skills competition ever - WorldSkills Calgary 2009 - which will take place in Canada in September. The selected auto members, along with the categories they were competing in are below:



CAR PAINTING: Zak McLaughlan, 19, from Denham who studies at Thatcham College and works at Solus Norwich Union

CAR PAINTING: Ben Eaton, 19, from Sheffield who works for Sytner Sheffield

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY: Dean Jones, 20, from Swansea who works for Mercedes-Benz of Swansea

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY: Paul Abbey, 20, from Gattonside, who works for Gattonside Garage

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR: Daniel Cain, 21, from Grimsby, who works for Just Car Clinics

For further details, go to <http://www.motor.org.uk/wales/skills-squad.html>

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Top Technician 2009

Entrants from throughout the UK have completed a mixture of 27 multiple choice and open questions covering every aspect of advanced vehicle repair and diagnostics.

The top scoring final 24 technicians will now compete for a place in the competition's grand final at one of two regional heats on March 6th and 7th in Bristol and Blackburn.



The final will take place on 29th April at the Jaguar Land Rover Training Academy in Warwick. The eventual winner will receive the prestigious title of Top Technician 2009 along with a £10,500 prize package.

Top Technician 2009 technical partner is ATA (Automotive Technician Accreditation) and is sponsored by Bosch, Comma Oil & Chemicals, Euro Car Parts, NGK, SACHS and Snap-on Tools.

For more information [click here](#)

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UK's Sector Skills Councils appoint first Alliance CEO

The Alliance of Sector Skills Councils has appointed John McNamara as its first CEO. The Alliance, formed in 2008, is the collective voice of all 25 of the UK's Sector Skills Councils (SSCs). Its first CEO will be the champion for these employer-driven organisations that together articulate the voice of the employers of around 90% of the UK's workforce on skills issues.

As Chief Executive, McNamara will seek to establish the Alliance as the voice of the UK Sector Skills Councils, promoting the vital role SSCs play across all four nations of the UK. McNamara joins the Alliance with a full inbox of skills issues. Paramount is the economic recession and the impact this is having on employers and their people. The re-licensing of SSCs and the Qualification Reform Programme are also key areas of development during 2009.

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Local Exhaust Ventilation workshops

For the benefit of users of Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) HSE is running free half

day workshops at Birmingham City Football Club (March 3), Caterpillar, Leicester (March 5) and Fort Dunlop, Birmingham (March 10). This may be of interest to those in motor vehicle training who use LEV to control dust/fume from sanding, exhaust fume and welding.

Attendees at these events will be able to

- Get practical advice on how risks from dust and fumes can be controlled
- See award-winning demonstrations of how LEV works
- Get key, practical design tips on how to get the best from your system
- Find out how to get the best out of your LEV supplier
- Meet a wide range of suppliers of LEV goods and services who can help you.

For further details please contact: Sarah Wilson, Tel: 01782 602363 or e-mail sarah.wilson@hse.gsi.gov.uk or see the HSE website www.hse.gov.uk

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Any comments or feedback on Drive Forward are appreciated, please send to adrianl@motor.org.uk.

Regards

Adrian Lawson

Development Manager - Quality Improvement

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