

Torque

the Motor Industry Newsletter - August 2009

Welcome to Torque, the monthly newsletter from the IMI for Motor Industry employers.

As the professional association and Sector Skills Council for the automotive retail industry we would like to keep you up to date with news, views and information from our sector.

If you have any comments, or if you know anyone who may like to receive this Newsletter, please email marianne@motor.org.uk. We will not pass your details on to any other organisation.

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Free event for the Body Repair industry

On Wednesday 16 September from 6pm to 9.45pm there is a free event for the Body Repair industry at the City Technology Campus, City College Birmingham.



There will be a welding techniques demonstration as well as talks from Gerry Braddock, from VBRA, on PAS 125 Kitemark and Jon Douglass, from the IMI, on Automotive Technician Accreditation (ATA).

The evening will be of interest to all organisations within the Body Repair industry, everyone who is affected by the PAS 125 regulations, technicians who repair vehicles that are built using current high strength steels and will show the benefits that the ATA scheme can bring to your business.

[Click here](#) for more information. To book your place call 0121 204 0400 or email jwoodyatt@citycol.ac.uk

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Automotive Retail Sector - IMI Quarterly Report

UK GDP figures released in February showed the UK economy officially in recession as of the final quarter of 2008 and it is expected that the UK economy will remain in recession through 2009.

The UK and global slowdown has already started to be felt by the automotive

sector. New car registrations fell dramatically in the latter part of 2008 and have continued to fall in 2009. The 'Automotive Retail Sector - Quarterly Report' aims to give a more current view of the industry, analysing employment and car production and sales figures amongst other key indicators.

[Click here](#) to read the key findings.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

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The IMI's Funding Advice Service

The IMI's Funding Advice Service has now been running for a couple of months and taken a wide variety of queries from both employers and training providers in the industry. The queries have been wide ranging, and have covered everything from pay rates for apprentices to availability of funding for specific qualifications.

Overall, the response to the service has been positive, and employers and training providers across the sector have saved many hours of their time - and therefore money - in getting fast practical advice to their funding questions. If you have feedback on the service, or would like to find out more, please email

funding@motor.org.uk.

To see how the service has benefitted a business, [click here ...](#)

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2009 Bodyshop Event

The 2009 Bodyshop Event is for all repairers, suppliers, distributors, insurers, accident management companies, consultants, trainers and associates to come together for a practical, informative and time efficient day. It is taking place at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole on the 10 and 11 September.



BE2009 offers a mix and match programme for all attendees, whether for help and advice, product demonstrations, management tutorials, one-to-one meetings or simply to network and pick up ideas.

The IMI will lead an interactive workshop on Management and Leadership - a must-attend for all managers.

For further information call Emily Miles on 01296 642820 or email

emily@bodyshopmag.com

Find out [more here ...](#)

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Increase in weekly minimum wage for apprentices in England

From August 1st 2009, the minimum wage for all apprentices in England will be increased from £80 to £95 per week. Currently, all apprentices aged 16-18 and those

aged 19 and over in their first year as an apprentice, are exempt from being paid the National Minimum Wage. In 2005 the Learning and Skills Council introduced a requirement that employers pay apprentices a minimum of at least £80 per week. The average net earnings of an apprentice each week is now around £170, but the Government wants to ensure that the earnings of all apprentices are fair and that they reflect the support given to young people pursuing other qualifications.

The new minimum weekly apprenticeship wage of £95 has been re-calculated to match the package of allowances and benefits that young people might receive were they in full-time education or unwaged training. The National Apprenticeship Service estimates that around 10 per cent of apprentices are affected and would urge all apprenticeship providers to remind the employers they work with that the minimum wage has risen to £95 per week.

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Celebrating the best of Apprenticeships

England's best apprentices were recognised at the 2009 Apprenticeship Awards held in London earlier this month. Run by the National Apprenticeships Service, the Awards celebrated the achievements of apprentices and their employers and there was



good news for the automotive sector. Mark Jefferson, 15, (pictured) who works for Rockingham Cars in Northampton, won the Young Apprentice of the Year and Bentley Motors Ltd was highly commended in the large employer of the year category.

For more information about the awards ceremony visit

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Awards.aspx>

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Automotive Technicians chosen to represent UK

In September three young automotive technicians will be flying to Canada to compete at WorldSkills Calgary 2009, as part of the automotive team in the biggest skills competition in the world which encompasses 45 different skill categories.



Twenty year old Dean Jones from Swansea, who works for Mercedes-Benz of Swansea, Daniel Cain (22), a Grimsby based automotive technician who works at Just Car Clinics and Zak McLaughlan (19), a Denham based apprentice car painter who works at Solus Norwich Union, have been selected as members of Squad UK, a team of 26 skilled young people from across the nation.

To qualify, Dean, Daniel and Zak competed in Skillauto 2008, find out more about this competition [here](#).

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The heat is on ... become July 2010 compliant with ATA Air-Conditioning



The Automotive Technician Accreditation (ATA) scheme is reminding employers and technicians that there is now only one year to go before new European legislation regarding the handling of refrigerant gases comes into force in July 2010.

Last year in response to the forthcoming legislation, the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) which regulates the ATA scheme introduced the air-conditioning route to the accreditation scheme and all three levels within the discipline satisfy the minimum requirements set out in the regulation.

At present, there are sixteen independent centres approved to run assessments, technicians wishing to find out more can log onto the website www.automotivetechnician.org.uk to find their nearest centre.

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Latest Motor Industry News

77 % of motorists use the same garage every time

A new survey has found that 65 per cent believe a local independent garage is likely to produce the best service... [[Full Story](#)]

Dealers brace themselves for scrappage scheme influx

Dealers around the country are bracing themselves for a busy month as government money for the successful scrappage scheme runs out... [[Full Story](#)]

[For more of the latest Motor Industry News click here ...](#)

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Regards

Sarah Sillars OBE FIMI

Chief Executive

The Institute of the Motor Industry

Tel: 01992 511 521

Email: info@motor.org.uk

<http://www.motor.org.uk>

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