



**Department of Business Regulation  
Commercial Licensing Division**

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# **AUTO BODY BULLETIN NUMBER 2024-04**

## Automobile Manufacturer Certifications for Class “A” Shops

This Bulletin is applicable to all Department of Business Regulation (“Department”) Licensees, and those individuals and/or entities pursuing licensure, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-38-1 et seq. and 230-RICR-30-05-02, Motor Vehicle Body and Salvage Vehicle Repair (the “Regulation”).

It has come to the attention of the Division that automobile manufacturers no longer issue stand-alone aluminum (or other high-strength steel) repair and/or refinishing certifications. However, automobile manufacturers do continue to certify shops in the repair and/or refinishing of their specific automobiles, addressing training and education for the specific structural materials used in their vehicles, including without limitation aluminum repair and/or refinishing training.

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-38-5(5)(I)(B), a requirement for licensure as a Class A automobile repair shop is that the shop “[b]e certified by at least one automobile manufacturer for the repair and refinishing of aluminum high-strength steel, and other metal alloy...” The Department will accept proof of a shop’s certification by an automobile manufacturer as fulfilling the requirements of § 5-38-5(5)(I)(B) in that such certification includes aluminum (or other high-strength steel) repair and/or refinishing education and/or training. Evidence of such compliance shall be the certification itself, and if the certification document has not yet been attained, may be temporarily demonstrated by appearance of the shop on the automobile manufacturer’s website indicating the applicant or licensee is certified.

Please direct any questions you may have to the Department via email at [DBR.CommLicInquiry@dbr.ri.gov](mailto:DBR.CommLicInquiry@dbr.ri.gov).

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