

TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON THE I-CAR WEB SITE

NOV/DEC

08

There are several technical resources and information available on the I-CAR web site. If you have not been to the I-CAR web site lately, or if you are unaware of what assets are available, read on.

FROM the I-CAR home page (www.i-car.com), valuable technical information can be accessed from the Technical Information page (see Figure 1) that can be accessed by clicking on the Technical Information text at the top of the screen. While navigating the I-CAR web site, the Technical Information tab is available from any page on the I-CAR web site. Reference topics include:

- The I-CAR Advantage Online
- Top Technical Inquiries
- Vehicle Makers' Technical Information
- Airbag Parts Replacement Charts
- Partial Replacement Recommendations
- UPCR

If you find yourself going to the I-CAR web site often for reference information and answers, make your life easier by making this your homepage.

Though you may not find exactly what you are looking for at a specific time, information is occasionally updated, and during your next visit, the answers may be available.

This article is a tour of these reference topics.

I-CAR Advantage Online

The I-CAR Advantage Online is a collection of over 20 years of technical articles written by I-CAR. Since 1988, I-CAR has released over 500 articles. Article subjects have included new refinishing products and materials, information on advanced high-strength steels, new tools for collision repair use, highlights of new model vehicles, and clarifications on specific repairs.

Originally only available through a subscription-based format, these newsletters can now be accessed free of charge on the I-CAR web site at http://209.103.220.181/e_newsletter.

Top Technical Inquiries

The Top Technical Inquiries is a listing of the top 11 technical inquiries that the I-CAR Tech Centre has received over the past 15 years (see Figure 2). Each question is followed by a collaborative answer that most technicians should find helpful regardless of the vehicle in

question. Some of the top technical inquiries and general responses listed on this page include:

- How to identify if a structural part can be sectioned?
- When should a structural part be repaired vs. replaced?
- Can a full frame be sectioned?
- Can a tear or crack in the frame rail be welded or does the part have to be replaced?
- What are the I-CAR recommendations regarding the:
 - o amount of time allotted to a repair?
 - o use of specific products?
- What must be replaced following an airbag deployment?
- What are high-strength steel heating recommendations for each vehicle maker?
- What is the I-CAR recommendation regarding the use of recycled parts (including airbags)?
- What are the I-CAR recommendations for full-body sectioning (clipping)?



Figure 1 - The Technical Information home page has access to many important technical tools. Making this your home page with help you access helpful information quickly.



Figure 2 - Some of our more popular technical inquiries received over the years are listed here.



Figure 3 - All vehicle makes sold in North America are linked off the Vehicle Maker Technical Information.

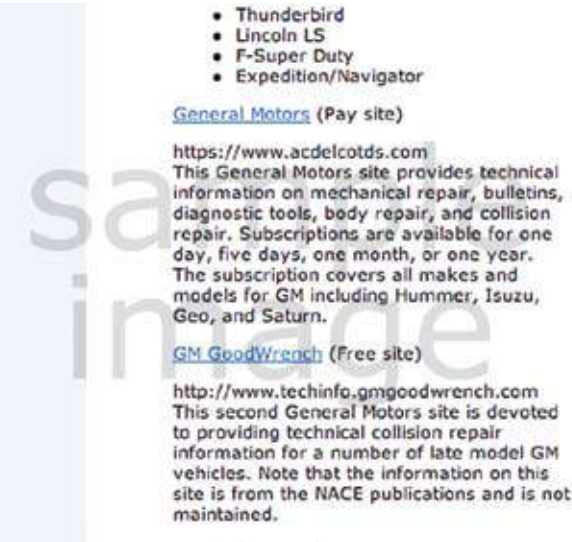


Figure 4 - Some vehicle makers have both complimentary and subscription-based web sites.

Even though technology has changed over the years, the core questions that continue to be asked remain essentially the same. To see the responses to these and other technical inquiries, go to: http://www.i-car.com/html_pages/technical_information/tech_inquiries.shtml.

Vehicle Makers' Technical Information

In the Vehicle Makers' Technical Information section of the web site is an alphabetical listing of all the vehicle maker technical information web sites (see Figure 3). In addition to the links to each of the vehicle maker technical information web sites, there is a description of the content included on the web site, computer system requirements (if any), and whether the web site is subscription-based or complimentary.

An example of a complimentary web site is the GM Goodwrench web site. This web site offers complimentary access to some of the available body repair information from General Motors, but no mechanical service information. That technical information is found on the subscription-based web site for GM. Knowing this, it is a good idea to always check the complimentary web site first, but realize that it may require a subscription for access to get what you need (see Figure 4). The GM complimentary body repair web site can be found at <http://www.techinfo.gmgoodwrench.com>.

Keep in mind that I-CAR is only offering a link to the vehicle maker web sites. I-CAR is not associated with the e-commerce or web site support for the vehicle makers.

Other reference information can also be found at the National Automotive Service Task Force (NASTF) at <http://www.nastf.org>. On this web site, there is information about:

- Vehicle Security Information
- Service Information
- Service Information Access Charges
- Service Information Matrix
- Tools Matrix
- Scan Tool Information
- Reprogramming Tool Information
- Training Matrix
- Collision Matrix

Airbag Parts Replacement Charts

The Airbag Parts Replacement Charts allows you to quickly determine which restraint system parts the vehicle maker recommends replacing or inspecting following a collision when there has been an airbag deployment. The chart requires entering the model year, make, and specific model of the vehicle (see Figure 5). These charts are updated two or three times per year.

As with any other type of service repair information, this information can be used during the initial damage analysis process, as well as for determining which repairs to the vehicle are required. The Airbag Replacement Charts can be found at: http://209.103.220.181/airbag_matrix/fmpro?-db=matrixmd.fp5&-lay=vehicle_charts&-format=index.html&-view

Partial Replacement Recommendations

The Partial Replacement Recommendations section of the I-CAR web site allows you to

access another chart where you are able to determine if there is repair information regarding the repair in question on a specific vehicle. Again, you enter the model year of the vehicle, the make, and the model (see Figure 6). This information is updated at various times throughout the year as new information is released.

I-CAR, in cooperation with State Farm and Tech-Cor LLC, created the matrix that identifies vehicle-specific, OEM-approved partial replacement recommendations for the following general areas:

- front lower rail
- pillars, rocker panel, or roof rail
- rear rail
- trunk floor

Partial replacement includes a sectioning location or partial replacement at a factory seam. The recommendations are based on information that is available from the vehicle-maker-specific technical information web site.

If a partial replacement procedure is available, you will see: Link To Vehicle Maker Technical Information. If there is no procedure or information available, the phrase "No Recommendations" will show up. That way you are made aware of the fact that, to our knowledge, there is no information supplied by the vehicle maker. If there are recommendations, there will be a link to the vehicle maker web site, but not to the procedure. To get to the procedure you will need to access the vehicle maker web site.

The Partial Replacement Recommendations

This article first appeared in the I-CAR Advantage Online, which is published and distributed free of charge. I-CAR, the Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair, is a not-for-profit international training organization that researches and develops quality technical education programs related to automotive repair. To learn more about I-CAR, and to subscribe to the free publication, visit www.i-car.co.nz, then click on 'Links', then 'I-CAR Advantage Online'.

For information on I-CAR training courses conducted throughout New Zealand, contact I-CAR NEW ZEALAND Phone 07 - 847 0218

matrix was created to provide a central location to identify if a vehicle has a procedure for a structural part that may be partially replaced. The Partial Replacement Matrix can be found at: http://209.103.220.181/vehicle_technical_information/fmpro?-db=vehicle_section.fp5&-lay=vehicle_specific_sectioning&-format=index.html&-view

UPCR

Under the UPCR tab is the complete list of Uniform Procedures for Collision Repair that I-CAR developed about ten years ago. The procedures are intended as a reference tool for technicians and appraisers, on-the-job training, or even support documents when explaining repairs to vehicle owners.

Although these procedures have not been

maintained, UPCR can still serve many of these purposes. The procedures were written generically, and many step-by-step procedures have not significantly changed.

The page that comes up when the UPCR tab is selected is the main menu. The procedures are grouped into 38 categories. After the name of the individual procedures under each category may be the letter "A" for aluminium, "S" for steel, or "P" for plastic. If the material is not relevant to the procedure, there is no letter after the number. As an example, selecting procedure "SP71S Rocker Panel" links to the procedural steps for repairing a steel rocker panel.

The procedures themselves are laid out in eleven sections. The actual step-by-step procedure is in section 9. Other

sections include equipment and material requirements, damage analysis information, other documents related to the repair, inspection requirements, and information on using recycled parts.

Conclusion

There is a wealth of free technical information and links on the Technical Information page of the I-CAR web site. Use this information to help you perform vehicle repairs properly.

While navigating the I-CAR web site, the Technical Information tab is available from any page. If you find yourself going to the I-CAR web site often for reference information and answers, make your life easier by making this link your homepage: http://www.i-car.com/html_pages/technical_information.shtml



Figure 5 - The Airbag Parts Replacement Charts can be searched by specific year, make, and model of vehicle.



Figure 6 - The Partial Replacement Recommendations matrix can be searched by specific year, make, and model of vehicle.