ASE UPDATE
by Tim Zilke, President & CEO

Happy New Year! As another successful year ends, we begin anew with some great new projects going on at ASE. We are always looking for ways to better serve you. Some of the things planned for 2016:

* Enhance ASE store
* Move Section 609 Program to myASE
* Continue to add test centers (now numbering nearly 500)

As you are aware, we have updated the Advanced Engine Performance (L1) test, featuring the new Composite Vehicle Type 4 Reference Booklet. You can download the booklet from the ASE website. To view all the details on the changes, visit the L1 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page at www.ase.com/L1FAQs.

Aside from the revised L1 test, we have launched three new practice tests, adding to our resources designed to help test takers prepare for the ASE certification tests. The new practice tests cover the Automobile Advanced Engine Performance Specialist (L1), Automobile Service Consultant (C1), and Auto Maintenance and Light Repair (G1) tests. For more information on ASE Practice Tests and how to purchase them, visit www.ase.com/practice.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful year ahead.

Sincerely,

Tim

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New Requirement Coming for Master Truck Technicians

In response to changing Federal standards and industry requests, ASE is adding one test to the requirements for the Master Medium/Heavy Truck Technician designation. Starting in 2017, candidates for Master status will have to be certified in the Preventive Maintenance and Inspection (PMI) (T8 Test) specialty area along with the six truck tests previously required.

The addition of the PMI test is a result of input from trucking industry representatives who pointed to increased Compliance, Safety and Accountability (CSA) standards imposed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). A greater emphasis on maintenance and inspection will help motor carriers improve their overall CSA ratings.

What does this mean for you? If you are a Master Truck technician (under the current requirement) on January 1, 2017, you will retain that status until your first truck certification expires. When you recertify in that area, you will also need to take and pass the T8 test to keep Master status. If you have not yet earned Master status or if your status has lapsed, you might want to consider taking care of that in 2016, before the new requirement kicks in. See the table below for more information on Master Truck Technician requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If Certifying or Recertifying in...</th>
<th>Requirements for Master Medium/Heavy Truck Technician Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8</td>
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Ask a Subject Matter Expert (SME)

A Subject Matter Expert (SME) is a person who possesses a high level of specialized technical knowledge and experience. ASE develops its certification tests during workshops at which SMEs gather together to write and review test questions. Recently, ASE asked a few SMEs some questions about the process. Here, in their own words, are their answers.

Q1. Test takers often comment that some questions have more than one correct answer. What is done during a workshop to ensure that there is only one correct answer?

Michael Ronan – Automotive Instructor/Technician, Alfred, NY
Each SME attending a workshop receives extensive training at the start of the session, and this topic is covered in depth. SMEs are trained to critically analyze each word in every answer option, and if even a single SME has a doubt about a given answer, the team works to find a substitute. On occasion, the group may discard a question because it may not be fair to all test takers.

Matt Fanslow – Automotive Technician, Red Wing, MN
It’s the job of the SMEs on the workshop technical committees to dissect each question and its answer options to ensure that there is only one correct answer. If you’re struggling with a question and believe that there’s more than one answer, it could be that you’re not knowledgeable about the question’s content. Also, it’s not like a game show where the top 4 answers are on the exam and you have to choose the most popular one to be correct. Only one answer is correct.

Q2. How does the workshop technical committee avoid manufacturer-specific content or bias in the test questions?

Greg Weller - Automotive Instructor/Technician, Baltimore, MD
The ASE questions are generic. During the question writing process, SMEs may use training and service information as inspiration. Modifications are made to the original question or image and the SMEs must agree upon its use. The goal of an image is to support the generic concepts covered in the question. So while manufacturer-specific information may be the inspiration to an ASE test question, the SMEs and ASE’s graphic artists ensure that the question is modified to be generically applicable to the test content.

Tom Dayton - Parts Specialist, Jamestown, NY
We have to write questions that are general in nature. The SMEs who participate in the question writing workshops come from a variety of backgrounds in the industry, and we each have the opportunity to share our own experiences as questions are written. Any one of us has the ability to object to a question if we feel it is unfair to someone with experience similar to our own. In this way, the tests are not about having to remember information or policies that are unique to one employer, supplier, or manufacturer.
ASE Adds New Practice Tests

ASE has added a new L1 Practice Test to its store of materials to help you succeed with the updated Automobile Advanced Engine Performance Specialist (L1) test. The L1 Practice Test features both types of questions that appear on the certification test:

- General test questions, with technology that is common to most light duty vehicles.
- Composite Vehicle test questions, with specific technology that requires use of the *Composite Vehicle Type 4 Reference Booklet*.

To help familiarize you with use of the CV4 Booklet, more than half of the L1 Practice Test questions reference the booklet. This is an important key to your success with this test.

In addition, ASE recently introduced Practice Tests for the *Automobile Service Consultant (C1)* and *Auto Maintenance & Light Repair (G1)* tests. These new products will be especially helpful for those who may be taking their first ASE test.

The Official ASE Practice Tests are delivered exclusively online and are half the length of ASE tests. The questions in these tests were developed following the same procedures used for creating actual ASE test questions. As an added value, Practice Test questions provide explanations about why answer options are or are not correct.

For more information on ASE Practice Tests and how to purchase them, visit us online at www.ase.com/practice.

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**A/C Service Credentials Explained**

Confused about A/C service credentials?

Essential Credential
- You must have a Section 609 credential like ASE’s
- You must also use EPA-approved and registered equipment

≠ 609
- Regular ASE certifications do not satisfy Section 609 requirements
- The ASE Refrigerant Program meets these requirements

The School of New Cool!
- The ASE Section 609 Program now covers these refrigerants:
  - R-1234yf
  - R-744 (CO2)
  - R-162a

There’s No Equal
- EPA lists ASE as an authorized provider
- Your assurance that the program meets federal Section 609 requirements

See the Movie
- Watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=465m5dqg_gu

Far More Than Cars
- Covers farm equipment
- Covers construction equipment

Refrigerant Recovery and Recycling

REVIEW AND QUIZ

Authorized Section 609 Program

Seal of Approval
Winter Registration Ends February 24th!
Visit myASE.com to Register for ASE certification tests.

Save the Date!
July 25 - 29, 2016
Embassy Suites, Concord, NC
www.ayes.org/conference.aspx

ASE Industry Education Alliance