



# TECH News

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Fall 2012

## High Marks for New Program

The feedback on the new computer based testing program has been very positive, with technicians giving high marks for the improvements in availability, more choices for scheduling and the instant test results. We've been listening to your comments and suggestions and are already fine-tuning the process to make it even more convenient, most recently by adding more test centers. The newest additions include Salinas, CA; Cleveland, WI; Brownsville, TX; Tuscaloosa, AL; Kalamazoo, MI; Farmington, MO; Vincennes, IN and Weatherford, OK. In total, ASE has identified 98 areas so far for additional test centers and is aggressively adding new locations. You can check on the status of all the test centers at [www.ase.com/testcenters](http://www.ase.com/testcenters) and view the progress as new sites come online.

### Registration is Quick and Easy

The process involves three simple steps.

-  **Ready!** Log into your personal myASE account at [www.myASE.com](http://www.myASE.com). If your account is not set up, click the *Create myASE Account link* (you can check the closest test center at [www.ase.com/testcenters](http://www.ase.com/testcenters)).
-  **Set!** Once you are logged in, click the *Register Now* button on the left. Select and register for the tests you want to take.
-  **GO!** Schedule appointments to take your tests.

You can both register and schedule via telephone by calling our testing partner Prometric at 1-877-346-9327, Monday–Friday, 8 am to 8 pm Eastern. They can also answer any questions.

## ASE Testing Schedule

Registration  
September 1, 2012 thru  
November 21, 2012

Testing  
October 1, 2012 thru  
November 30, 2012

Registration  
December 1, 2012 thru  
February 21, 2013

Testing  
January 2, 2013 thru  
February 28, 2013

Registration  
March 1, 2013 thru  
May 21, 2013

Testing  
April 1, 2013 thru  
May 31, 2013

Registration  
June 1, 2013 thru  
August 21, 2013

Testing  
July 1, 2013 thru  
August 31, 2013

### What to expect with the new ASE testing program:

- No more waiting—instant test results
- Longer test windows—Up to 230 days of testing available in most centers!
- More thorough check-in and security safeguards test integrity, ensures the highest professional standards and increases the value of your certification

For more information on test locations and availability, go to [www.ase.com/testcenters](http://www.ase.com/testcenters)

For more information on the new testing program procedures, visit [www.ase.com/whattoexpect](http://www.ase.com/whattoexpect)

[www.myASE.com](http://www.myASE.com)



## The Rules are Changing

It's hard to believe that it's been almost two decades since R-134a refrigerant replaced ozone-depleting R-12. Since then, the air conditioning service world has been relatively tranquil, with most news focused on different alternative refrigerants and incremental changes in service equipment. That's about to end, because changes are surely coming your way. With the introduction of HFO-1234yf refrigerant in some models this year, it's poised to generate a ripple effect into the entire landscape of A/C service.

### Why the Switch?

As environmental initiatives focus on global warming, the EPA classified R-134a as a greenhouse gas. Gases in this category are believed to be a potential cause of climate change, and are assigned a "Global Warming Potential" (GWP) factor, based on their level of impact. The lower the GWP, the less the gas affects climate change. R-134a carries a GWP of 1,300 and is considered high. With that in mind, engineers began the search for a more suitable refrigerant as R-134a's successor.

European automakers researched R-744 (Carbon Dioxide, or CO<sub>2</sub>) heavily as a potential alternative, due to an ultra-low GWP of 1. This is the lowest GWP of any available refrigerant. However, since R-744's operating pressures are so much higher (1920 psi or 133 bar) than R-134a, this new gas requires highly specialized components and training.

HFO-1234yf refrigerant, on the other hand, gained favor with automakers as a more suitable alternative, even though this alternative carries a slightly higher GWP of 4. Despite the slight GWP disadvantage when compared to R-744, HFO-1234yf wins out since it works at similar pressures to R-134a. Theoretically, it takes less fuel to power a system charged with HFO-1234yf when compared to R-744, so the net result is a GWP advantage for HFO-1234yf.

### How Soon?

The Cadillac XTS will be the first car in the U.S. with a factory fill of HFO-1234yf. Other makes and models will gradually enter the vehicle fleet as manufacturers make the transition to this new refrigerant. From a service perspective, working on systems charged with HFO-1234yf will be governed by regulations due later in 2012. That's when the EPA is expected to release guidance on new program requirements.

### Container Notes

HFO-1234yf cylinders will be white with a red band. The exact size of HFO-1234yf cylinders has not yet been determined, but it's anticipated that the cylinder capacity will be smaller than 30 lbs. There will be no small containers of

**A/C system service is once more on the brink of change, driven by new refrigerants, regulations and equipment**

HFO-1234yf for the DIY market. Also, the new refrigerant will require unique fitting sizes and a dedicated label to minimize the chances of refrigerant cross-contamination.

### Effects on ASE's Section 609 Program

Since its inception, the ASE Refrigerant Recovery and Recycling Review and Quiz met the requirements of the EPA and therefore is listed by the agency as an approved program. As the new revisions and rules emerge, ASE will continue to work closely with EPA to keep ASE's program in step with the latest changes. The specifics of those revisions have not yet been released by the EPA, but they're likely to resemble the content and structure for R-12 and R-134a procedures.

### Equipment Considerations

Unique service fittings as well as different performance requirements will mean a dedicated refrigerant recovery and recycling machine for the new refrigerant. As a new requirement, the machine will not recover refrigerant until it first identifies the purity of refrigerant through an integrated refrigerant identifier. If the refrigerant to be recovered does not pass the purity test, the system must be evacuated with recovery-only equipment and disposed of properly. New leak detectors and refrigerant identifiers will also be required for HFO-1234yf.

### Retrofitting

Unlike the change from R-12 to R-134a, it's illegal to retrofit R-134a systems to HFO-1234yf. Also, the two refrigerants should never be mixed, no matter the scenario.

The stage is set to bring challenge and change to your air conditioning service practices. *Get Alerts on changes to ASE's Refrigerant Recovery program—just go to [www.asecampus.com](http://www.asecampus.com) and select the drop down menu for Alerts.*



## TECH News

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## PROFILE

### Show the World



**Tim Feldhaus**, lead technician at A-Automotive in Collville, Wash., holds six ASE Master designations, is a World Class Technician, and attributes his collection of certifications to his tenacious pursuit of the details and ultimately, the correct answer, to automotive repair's stubborn problems.

#### Getting Started

I turned a hobby into a career when I decided to become a technician, and soon realized there was a lot more to this than I was familiar with, so I started reading up, studying, learning about every possible kind of vehicle out there.

#### Ability Gauge

I took my first ASE certification test back in 1989. Soon after, I took many more. I felt I needed to get certified. The people who are paying good money to have their vehicle fixed need some way to gauge the abilities of who is working on them. The only way they are going to know that is to look for the ASE blue seal.

#### ASE as a Marketing Tool

We use our ASE certifications as a marketing tool, but it's not just for advertising. It's so the customers know the people working on their cars have gone out of their way to show the world that they care about what's current and what abilities they possess to work on that vehicle. It is a way to prove to everybody else what skills and knowledge you have.

#### Get It Done for the Customer

Every day is a test. The cars come in with problems, and I have to figure out what it is. It's my job to get it done in the least amount of time, with the least amount of expense for the customer. When we say we're ASE certified, customers know that we have successfully completed these tests, and we apply that knowledge to every repair.

## ASE Industry Education Alliance Recognizes Donors

**T**he ASE Industry Education Alliance has a mission of ensuring we have the properly-trained workforce we'll need in the 21st Century. Standing behind those highly-trained and talented individuals who keep our society moving are companies and organizations dedicated to providing the motoring public with the best service and repair experience possible. Through their support, the Industry Education Alliance is working to attract and recruit young men and women into the automotive industry, and help employers access these pools of talent across the nation. It takes the vision and commitment of many innovative companies to help fill our workforce needs of today and tomorrow, and we would like to recognize their generous support.

The list of industry donors supporting the ASE Industry Education Alliance includes:

- Advanstar Communications**
- American Honda Motor Co.**
- Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association (AAIA)**
- BMW of North America**
- Cengage Learning**
- Gates Corporation**
- General Motors**
- Hendrick Automotive Group**
- Mercedes Benz USA, LLC**
- Midas International**
- Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)**
- National Automotive Parts Association (NAPA)**
- National Automotive Dealers Association (NADA)**
- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)**
- Navistar, Inc.**
- Nissan North America, Inc.**
- Pep Boys-Manny, Moe & Jack**
- Subaru of America, Inc.**
- Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.**
- Valvoline**

"The Industry Education Alliance exists through the support from these visionary organizations that are helping to create the future of our industry," said Tim Zilke, ASE President & CEO. "We could not do it without them and want to express our sincere thanks for their commitment."

## ASE Tech News

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## Two Easy Ways to Register and Schedule Your Tests:

Online at [www.myASE.com](http://www.myASE.com)  
Or call 1-877-346-9327

### ASE Test Dates

Fall 2012

Registration Opens  
September 1

Registration Deadline:  
November 21

[www.myASE.com](http://www.myASE.com)

Testing Offered

October 1 through  
November 30