WHAT'S INSIDE:

› Q&A with Master Technician Lloyd Koppes
› Refrigerant Round-up
› ASE Light Diesel Certification

ASE.COM
By Tim Zilke, President & CEO

We’ve recently made some changes to the ASE program in our ongoing effort to ensure our certification categories match the needs of the industry as it relates to the type of work being performed in the shop. Our new structure groups the categories of knowledge being assessed in more of a “stair-step” approach, which establishes a solid foundation to build upon as individuals move through their automotive career.

Starting with ASE Student Certification — valid for two years — those graduating from automotive Career and Technical Education will go to employers with a basic set of credentials to show the knowledge they have achieved. From there, it’s a continuous career-building process beginning with the Auto Maintenance and Light Repair (G1) and its requirement of one year of work experience, to the familiar Journeyman-level regular ASE certification, which requires two years of experience. The top category is our advanced-level certification in gasoline engine, diesel engine, and starting in January, 2015, a new light hybrid-electric vehicle certification, which requires three years of work experience to qualify. ASE continues to advance its services as a career track that allows our industry professionals to evolve and advance their growing skills and knowledge along the way.

All of us at ASE never forget that our success is based on the success, pride, and dedication of our certified professionals like you. Choosing to make lifelong learning and continued improvement a key part of your career is a hallmark of the highest-performing individuals of any industry. And there is no shortage of commitment among those who proudly wear the ASE Blue Seal.

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

TESTING SCHEDULE
* Dates and availability may vary depending on test center location.

With your busy schedule, we know that it’s easy to delay testing until the last minute. But at the end of Spring Registration, some technicians were unable to get testing seats due to high demand.

Summer Registration ends on August 21! Register today and make sure that you get your seat!

**SUMMER REGISTRATION**
June 1, 2014 – August 21, 2014

**SUMMER TESTING**
July 1, 2014 – August 31, 2014

**FALL REGISTRATION**
Sept. 1, 2014 – Nov. 21, 2014

**FALL TESTING**
Oct. 1, 2014 – Nov. 30, 2014

* Dates and availability may vary depending on test center location.

REGISTER NOW

ASE Industry Education Alliance

2014 PARTNERS

ASE
GM
TOYOTA

Audi

Honda

BWM

Subaru

Mercedes-Benz

NAPA

Nissan

Navistar

UTI Foundation

PePBoYs

Cengage Learning

MotorAge Training

Snap-on

Premio

AAA

AAA Auto Parts

A-1 Tech

AAIA

GreenLink

NAPA

NADIA

American Autobody

American Association of Automotive Engineers

The Diesel Foundation

ASE.COM / LinkedIn / Twitter / Facebook
Light Vehicle Diesel Certification

ASE A9 diesel certification responds to technological advances in emissions, fuel economy and expanding market demand.

In 2009, ASE introduced a new addition to the Automobile Technician Certification test series — Light Vehicle Diesel Engines Test (A9). The A9 test came as a response to industry interest in an ASE certification path for technicians who work on light diesel engines, which many vehicle manufacturers plan to incorporate in existing production automobiles and light trucks to enhance their line-up. The first A9 tests were offered in the May 2009 ASE Test Administration, and since then more than 14,000 automotive professionals have achieved this certification.

Recent advances in diesel technology in the area of emissions and fuel economy have revived an interest for this power plant in the passenger car market in a big way.

The ASE A9 test covers automobiles and light trucks equipped with light duty diesel engines up through and including Class 3 (up to 14,000 lbs GVW). The test, developed using the well-established ASE workshop process, assembles some of the best subject matter experts in the industry who have outlined the test content and written the test questions.

The general areas of knowledge for the A9 include the following:

- General Diagnosis
- Cylinder Head and Valve Train Diagnosis and Repair
- Engine Block Diagnosis and Repair
- Lubrication and Cooling System Diagnosis and Repair
- Air Induction and Exhaust Systems Diagnosis and Repair
- Fuel System Diagnosis and Repair

Light-duty diesel technology shows the promise of a potentially broad application, particularly in existing vehicles and with an expected expansion of the diesel automobile market by North American manufacturers. ASE will continue to offer credentials to automotive professionals who desire industry and consumer recognition in their areas of specialty.

FOR INFORMATION ON ALL ASE CERTIFICATION TESTS, VISIT ASE.COM
REGISTRATION IS QUICK AND EASY
The process involves three simple steps.

Ready!
Log in to your personal myASE account at www.myASE.com. If your account is not set up, click the Create myASE Account link (you can find the closest test center at 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 also register and schedule via telephone by calling our testing partner Prometric at 1-877-346-9327, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., ET. They can also answer any questions you may have.

REGISTER NOW
Q: Why did you first become ASE Certified?
A: I first became certified because Toyota required it to become Master Certified, and my employer, a dealer, encouraged it.

Q: How did your relationship with ASE help you advance in your career?
A: My ASE Certifications have been instrumental in career promotions within service departments. They also helped me obtain adjunct instructor positions, and most importantly, ASE Certifications helped me gain employment at Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. as a Field Technical Specialist and later as a Service Training Specialist after 22 successful years in dealerships.

Q: In your experience as a Toyota Service Training Specialist, how important is continued automotive service training and certification to the career of a technician?
A: Continued education is the key to remaining relevant in your service department. Each model is renewed every five years, at least. Toyota alone sells about 18 models. So do the math. Each year there are three or four models with complete make-overs including new technologies. Even during a model run, some changes are introduced that require more learning. Remaining ASE Certified is the only universal recognition of our skill and knowledge. It is the master’s degree in our field.

Q: How do you feel that ASE benefits the automotive service industry?
A: ASE benefits the industry in several important ways. First, it is public/consumer recognition of who’s who and recognizes technician dedication to continued education and skill development. Second, and just as important, is the NATEF arm of ASE. Without NATEF standards in automotive education, there would be even greater inconsistency in quality of automotive training programs.

Q: What advice would you have for young techs getting started in the business?
A: Go to school and graduate. On-the-job training and continuous learning are a necessary part of our career. If you like to learn new things all the time, this field may be for you. Get a degree. Stay Master ASE Certified even if your employer does not require it. These two things will open doors in your career when you start to physically hurt from years in this business.

Q: What’s your dream car?
REFRIGERANT ROUND-UP

The impact of refrigerants and regulations on the future of air conditioning service

There have been a lot of changes in the arena of vehicle air conditioning over the last few years, and more are on the way. In response, ASE's refrigerant program revisions are awaiting final approval, and we are in the process of several refrigerant transitions, including the possibility of German manufacturers using R-744 — commonly known as carbon dioxide (CO2). As you might expect, there are many implications for those involved in A/C service.

The first refrigerant recovery and recycling regulations for R-12 became effective in 1992. These industry controls included sales restrictions, tech training and mandatory certifications of professional service personnel handling refrigerants, along with equipment certification. Commonly known as the Section 609 program, much of its content for certification has changed since the inception of the program.

At the Federal level, it seems to be pretty well understood that Section 609 training and certification programs apply to passenger cars and light trucks. These programs, however, also cover MVAC-like appliances that cool passengers in other vehicles like construction machinery and farm equipment.

You should also be aware that requirements for businesses providing A/C service may also vary from state to state. Wisconsin recently repealed its state-licensing program, but the Federal standards set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency still apply.

ASE offers a Section 609 certification program separate from the regular ASE Heating & Air Conditioning (A7) Certification. To learn more about the program’s basics, visit ASE at www.asecampus.com.
SNAP Refrigerants

Refrigerants are classified according to their Global Warming Potential (GWP). The new R-1234yf represents a 99.7% lower GWP than R-134a (GWP of 1430). While R-134a is not subject to phase out in the U.S., the refrigerant will be phased out in Europe.

With a very similar pressure/temperature relationship to R-134a, R-1234y is almost a drop-in replacement. There are several approved alternatives under the Significant New Alternatives Program (SNAP). Take a look at the list of SNAP refrigerants at www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/refrigerants/lists/mvacs.html. Each refrigerant has a unique container identification, fittings and label. Unlike R-134a, R-1234yf is not for retrofitting. As with many other systems, polyalkylene glycol (PAG) is the system oil that is recommended.

CO₂ is a naturally occurring refrigerant that, unlike all others, is not chemically based. Initially favored by German automakers to meet the European Commission Directive specifying a GWP of less than 150, CO₂ systems require higher pressures for operation but are not flammable and have a GWP of 1. They are often used in commercial refrigeration, and CO₂ is SNAP-approved by the EPA.

R-152a has similar traits to R-134a and has a GWP of 124. It has some mild flammability traits, so it’s not approved for retrofit use and may see use at some point in the future. Blend refrigerants R-444A and R-445A are undergoing testing and may see use with some applications in the future. Any leakage of the blend disrupts the original blend percentages. This type of refrigerant is typically used in a complete recharge basis.

Changing Times

Despite the confusion associated with a new refrigerant like R-1234yf, changes are also inevitable in the way you do things in the service bay. For example, there will be new content in Section 609 training and certification programs that will cover various requirements. As always, framework for these changes come from SAE standards. In this case, it’s J2845.

It’s also important for A/C service professionals to be aware of the growing number of problems associated with R-134a contamination. Rogue refrigerant blends can turn up with an array of mixtures including R-40, R-22, R-142b, R-152a and R-12. To avoid contaminating your service equipment, always use a refrigerant identifier to know what you’re working with prior to any service performance. Unfortunately, older portable analyzers built prior to 2012 don’t detect R-40.

A/C service professionals must also take steps to avoid buying counterfeit refrigerants. Knowing where each refrigerant comes from is key. It is important to verify the refrigerant in the cylinder and the system to prevent cross-contamination, and if you find a contaminated system, isolate it to prevent mixing refrigerants.

NOW PLAYING ON YOUTUBE

Find more videos at youtube.com/asetests

ASE Testing
Learn about the benefits of computer-based testing for ASE Certification.

Why ASE
Learn why ASE is the top promotor of excellence in automotive service and repair in North America.

G1 Certification
The G1 provides a great foundation of knowledge and skill for a new auto tech to build their career on.