Registration fills up quickly!
Register for Fall testing before November 21, 2014
In talking with technicians, shop owners and other members of our industry, I occasionally hear comments from some who don’t believe we have any standards when it comes to automotive service and repair.

That’s unfortunate, because nothing could be further from the truth. There are many organizations and associations in the automotive industry with the mission of creating best practices for the benefit of our industry and the motoring public we serve.

ASE was founded by our industry to address consumer confidence issues related to the rapid pace of technological change happening in the early 1970s. Back then, the need for ongoing technical training was being driven by new technology like the growth of emission control systems and the first electronic engine controls. The industry needed a way to have some standards for knowledge assessment to ensure our workforce had a reliable measure of their existing technical knowledge to be successful in diagnosis and repair of increasingly more complex vehicle technology.

ASE Certification was one of the first such standards our industry came together to create and in that respect, remains one of the most significant examples of how such cooperation can succeed.

Today, the need for ongoing training and certification has become even more critical, and that same industry cooperation is alive and well in the workshops and board meetings of ASE.

The knowledge standards developed by the industry through ASE represent some of the best practices we have. That’s a message we should share more often.
The Light Duty Hybrid/Electric Vehicle Specialist (L3) is a new, advanced level certification from ASE. It is geared toward technicians who perform diagnosis and repairs on hybrid/electric vehicles. Available in January 2015, anyone meeting the prerequisite requirements may register to take the first L3 test starting December 1, 2014.

The initial L3 test will have some special, one-time situations as part of the rollout process through June 30, 2015. For example, instant test results will not be provided at the test center; they will be available after the close of the Spring testing window to allow for the initial calculations to determine the pass score. An “Introductory Special” for the L3 test is being offered.

Registration will begin December 1, 2014, and testing will be offered January 1, 2015 to February 28, 2015. Technicians who register, schedule and take the initial L3 test within this time period will receive a $50.00 discount. The test will continue to be offered through June; however, the “Introductory Special” will not apply after February 28.

Your Testing Experience
The initial test offered between January 1, 2015 and June 30, 2015 will contain 95 questions and have a 3.5 hour time limit. The purpose of the extra questions is to allow ASE to build a pool of qualified test questions for future test forms. Technicians who take the initial L3 test will be scored on 45 of the 95 questions. Since they will not know which ones are the scored questions when taking the test, they should do their best on every question. From the summer testing session on, the L3 test will contain 55 questions (45 that are scored and 10 that are included for research purposes). Technicians will have 120 minutes (2 hours) to complete the test, and instant results will be available at the test center.

Accessing Your Scores
Technicians taking the L3 test in Winter and Spring, 2015 will receive a simple “notice of completion,” and their L3 test result in myASE will show “Score Pending.” After the close of the Spring testing window, results will be posted to myASE, and technicians will be notified by email to access their account, view their results and print a score report.

Work Experience Requirement
In addition to passing the L3 test, technicians must provide evidence of three years of hands-on working experience in auto maintenance and repair. Technicians can take the L3 test before they have the required experience, but they will not receive a certificate until they have submitted proof of work experience. In order to register for the L3 test, technicians must be currently certified in both Automobile Electrical/Electronic Systems (A6) and Engine Performance (A8).

Test Content
Unlike the other advanced series tests, the L3 will not have a composite vehicle. Instead, a certification test reference document will identify the concepts for the hybrid/electric vehicle technology included in the L3 test. This document will be available with the ASE L3 study guide and as an electronic pop-up during the test. The information contained on the first page of the reference document outlines the common technical constructs for all of the hybrid/electric vehicle drive systems included in the L3 test. All questions in the test will follow this outline to ensure that the test content remains consistent and is understandable to technicians regardless of their area of hybrid/electric vehicle specialty.

Provided Materials
There are also block diagrams that illustrate systems similar to those used in many hybrid/electric vehicles, which will serve as a visual reference and identify a vehicle classification for each of the platforms based on their technical characteristics. The vehicle classifications will be used in some of the test questions to define the specific hybrid/electric vehicle type referenced in the test question scenario. A glossary of terms is also included and can be used as a reference if a term in a test question is not clearly understood due to differences in how the term is used by various hybrid/electric vehicle manufacturers.

Preparing for the Test
The majority of the test questions will be generic, meaning the concept identified in the question should be applicable to most of today’s hybrid/electric vehicles. There will be a number of questions that will only apply to the Type-1, Type-2 and Type-3 vehicle platforms identified in the block diagrams. Technicians will need to become familiar with the technology associated with all of these vehicle platforms, since questions about each of them may be included on the test. Please take the time to review all of the information contained in the certification test reference before taking the test.

Your Certificate
Due to the length of this first L3 test, we recommend that technicians schedule a stand-alone appointment. Those who pass the initial test and provide the required work experience information will receive a certificate and insignia that identifies them as an ASE Certified Advanced Level Specialist.
DO YOU HAVE ALL THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO SUCCEED?

**Ready!**
Go in to your ASE Certification test prepared.
Take advantage of our free downloadable study guides.

**Set!**
Try out the test without the stress of the real thing.
When you download our free online study guides, you can also purchase an official ASE practice test available for the A1-A8 and the P2 certification tests.

**GO!**
Register for your ASE Certification test today to reserve your seat before they fill up!

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**REGISTRATION**

**FALL TESTING**

Sep. 1, 2014 – Nov. 21, 2014

Oct. 1, 2014 – Nov. 30, 2014

* Dates and availability may vary depending on test center location.
1. How did your relationship with ASE help you advance in your career?

ASE has helped me in my employment by providing reinforcement that my diagnostic strategies work, and I can take in information from a vehicle and come up with the correct answer to most problems. There are always tricky problems, but being able to process information is what’s needed to crack those really hard diagnostic puzzles.

I have more faith in a newly hired technician who has taken the time to become certified than an individual who says they ‘know their stuff’ but hasn’t made the effort to prove it.”

2. In your experience as a Toyota Service Training Specialist, how important is continued automotive service training and certification to the career of a technician?

Training is important because the industry is always moving, flowing and changing. Technology is advancing and cars are keeping up. Gone are the days of distributors, points, carburetors and the simplicity of the ‘classic’ cars. Almost everything has a computer attached to it, and as a technician, you have to understand what that means to you when diagnosing a problem with it.

3. How do you feel that ASE benefits the automotive service industry?

ASE benefits the automotive industry by giving everyone a standard to go by. I have more faith in a newly hired technician who has taken the time to become certified than an individual who says they ‘know their stuff’ but hasn’t made the effort to prove it. There are always exceptions to that rule, but more often than not, a certified tech is going to be the better hire.

ASE Parts Specialists Know Their Parts

Most technicians have that one “go-to” person at the parts counter that you know will get the job done right. You know, the one who always gets the right part and has the knowledge to make sure you have all the parts you need to do the job; the one that goes the extra mile to help find that unusual or hard-to-get part. That pretty much describes an ASE Certified Parts Specialist.

The ASE P2 test has proven to be a very effective tool in identifying who has that kind of knowledge. While a parts specialist doesn’t need to have a deep technical understanding of vehicle systems, they must have a very broad range of knowledge about the products they sell. They have to answer questions about 14 different vehicle systems and the thousands of parts for hundreds of different models. And let’s not forget being up on customer service skills, inventory management, general store operations, vehicle identification and merchandising.

While not expected to diagnose vehicle problems, ASE Certified Parts Specialists know how to properly identify parts and systems, know their function, know how they relate to other systems on the vehicle and can provide some basic use and installation instructions. If you’re looking for the best parts specialists, you’ll find them among the ranks of ASE certified professionals.
The Blue Seal for Technical Training
Lifelong learning is part of being a true career professional and technical training is one of the best ways to continue that learning. See why the CASE accreditation program is the Blue Seal for technical training.
Read more.

Celebrating Excellence
Each year at the November Board of Governors meeting, ASE honors approximately 45 outstanding automotive professionals with special awards from a variety of our industry partners. With this year’s Technician Recognition Awards fast approaching, read up on why we celebrate these outstanding technicians and instructors.
Read more.