

Licensing in the Automotive Industry.

Licensing the automotive repair industry has been debated over many years, but effective licensing can create regulation that offers consumer benefits, encourages competition, fair trading, and economic efficiency.

Advantages include:

- Increased consumer awareness of and benefits from quality repairs undertaken by qualified tradesman.
- Improved and consistent repair and safety standard, especially for complex or specialist work. This is particularly important as increasing segmentation in the industry increases the number of specialist businesses focusing on specific vehicle functions.
- Legal enforcement of repair and safety standards
- Reduction of illegitimate body repairers

In NSW licenses are granted for the different types or classes of repair work that is performed. There are thirteen separate classes of repair work.

They are:

Automotive electrician *a person who repairs electrical equipment, systems or circuits in motor vehicles*

Body maker *a person who makes motor vehicle bodies (otherwise than in the course of manufacturing new motor vehicles) or who repairs motor vehicle bodies*

Brake mechanic a person who repairs brake equipment or systems in motor vehicles

Exhaust repairer a person who repairs exhaust systems on motor vehicles, but does not include a person who repairs any mechanical or electrical system or circuit or any electronic device associated with, or any component of the engine of, a motor vehicle

Front end specialist a person who repairs the steering or suspension systems of motor vehicles

Liquefied petroleum gas mechanic a person who installs liquefied petroleum gas equipment in motor vehicles or who repairs liquefied petroleum gas equipment in motor vehicles

Motor cycle mechanic a person who performs the work of a motor mechanic only on motor cycles

Motor mechanic a person who repairs the engines or transmissions or the fuel, induction, exhaust, electrical, steering, suspension, cooling or braking systems, of motor vehicles

Natural gas mechanic a person who installs natural gas equipment in motor vehicles or who repairs natural gas equipment in motor vehicles

Vehicle painter a person who paints motor vehicles

Panel beater a person who repairs the structural components, frames or panel work of motor vehicles

Radiator repairer a person who repairs radiators, heating equipment, thermostats or fuel tanks of motor vehicles

Transmission specialist a person who repairs the gears, clutches, drive shafts and differentials of motor vehicles, and the controlling systems for those parts in motor vehicles

The Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Authority (MVRIA) previously regulated licensing, certification, compliance, dispute resolution, education and research. It has now been aligned directly with the NSW Office of Fair Trading and enquiries can be made to –

(02) 9895 0111

A Tradesperson Certificate may be issued in accordance with Office of Fair Trading (OFT) requirements.

Certification is compulsory

A restricted tradespersons certificate may be granted to a person working in a limited range of work.

Apprentices and trainees under 21 years of age can not be issued a tradesperson's certificate of provisional tradespersons certificate to work in a trade unless an indentured apprenticeship has been completed.

A provisional certificate may be granted if applicant does not meet all the qualifications determined by the Office of Fair Trading, providing they are satisfied that the individual is capable of acquiring the skills necessary to meet the requirements.

No repair work can be carried out unless a repairer holds a tradesperson certificate issued by the OFT for the specific class of repair work or unless the repairer is an apprentice or indentured trainee and does repair work during the course of the apprenticeship or traineeship under the supervision of a certified tradesperson.