



CONTACT: Brandon Eckenrode, I-CAR
Marketing Communications Specialist
(847) 590-1198, X244
Brandon.Eckenrode@i-car.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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I-CAR WELDING QUALIFICATION TESTS FOR NEW DRP NOW REQUIRED

ROLLING MEADOWS, IL – February 11, 2004 – To help ensure a quality repair, the Personal Line Claims Division of American International Companies will require that participants in their new direct repair program employ a technician that has successfully completed the I-CAR Automotive Steel GMA (MIG) Welding Qualification Test. In addition, facilities that repair aluminum vehicles must have a technician that has passed the I-CAR Automotive Aluminum GMA (MIG) Welding Qualification Test. The Personal Lines Claims Division implemented this requirement in the Northeast region of the United States in late 2003 and will include all regions across the country by early 2004.

Major collision damage requires repairs to structural parts and welding is one of the most critical skills used in repairing this type of damage. Both the I-CAR steel and aluminum welding qualification tests allow professionals the opportunity to verify that they have the skills to perform the tasks required for proper, efficient, and safe collision repairs.

Personal Lines Claims Material Damage Director and Immediate Past Chairman of the I-CAR Board Roger Wright said, "Personal Lines made the decision to require the I-CAR welding qualification tests to provide our customers the assurance that they will consistently receive the highest quality repair on their vehicles."

I-CAR Executive Vice President and CEO Tom McGee said, "The welding skill level of a technician performing structural parts replacement or sectioning on a steel or aluminum part is critical to achieving a safe and complete repair. We are proud to have the I-CAR Qualification Tests included in the Personal Lines Claims program and in their recognition that these credentials



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can have a positive impact on the consumer receiving a properly repaired vehicle, whether it is constructed of steel or aluminum.”

I-CAR®, founded in 1979, is an international not-for-profit training organization dedicated to improving the quality, safety and efficiency of auto collision repair for the ultimate benefit of consumers.