

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MANITOBA PUBLIC INSURANCE REQUIRES I-CAR WELDING QUALIFICATION  
TEST FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CONSUMER**

ROLLING MEADOWS, IL – April 15, 2005 – To help achieve a quality repair, Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) will require that participants in their Accreditation Program employ at least one technician that has successfully completed the I-CAR Automotive Steel GMA (MIG) Welding Qualification Test. This policy will go into effect January 2007 and will be a benefit for MPI customers by helping to ensure that their vehicles are being repaired by trained technicians.

MPI's Research and Training Supervisor Steve Hudey said, "As a strong believer in the I-CAR program, I am pleased to see the I-CAR Automotive Steel GMA (MIG) Welding Qualification Test added as part of our Accreditation Program, this is definitely a step in the right direction in assuring quality repairs."

"Requiring the I-CAR Automotive Steel GMA (MIG) Welding Qualification Test is a natural next step for MPI," said I-CAR Canada Manager Tracey Blouin. "Over the last 10 years they have required their repair facilities to show not only a commitment, but an ongoing obligation to training. Requiring the qualification test further shows MPI's commitment to the industry and ultimately the vehicle owner."

I-CAR qualification tests allow professionals the opportunity to demonstrate that they have the skills to perform the tasks required to perform proper, efficient, and safe collision repairs. Because of the skill sets involved, these hands-on tests must be successfully completed every five years to maintain the qualification.

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I-CAR Qualification Test Manager Audie Swedeen said, “A repair technician’s welding skill level is critical to achieving a safe and complete repair. We are proud to have the I-CAR Automotive Steel GMA (MIG) Welding Qualification Test included in MPI’s Accreditation Program and in their recognition that these credentials can have a positive impact on the consumer receiving a properly repaired vehicle.”

For more information about this working relationship between I-CAR and MPI please contact I-CAR Canada Manager Tracey Blouin at 800.422.7456.

In addition to the Automotive Steel GMA (MIG) Welding Qualification Test, I-CAR also offers the Automotive Aluminum GMA (MIG) Welding Qualification Test and the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test at selected test sites. Please visit the I-CAR web site at [www.i-car.com](http://www.i-car.com) or contact I-CAR customer care at 800.422.7872 for additional information about qualification test sites in your area.

*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.*