



NEWS

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CAPA MOVING FORWARD ON CAPA 501 STANDARD FOR BUMPERS AND BUMPER SYSTEM PARTS

CAPA Bumper Standard Will Enable Market to Identify High Quality, Fairly Priced Bumpers and Bumper Parts

Washington, DC – Following up on the February 1st announcement that CAPA is developing a new bumper certification standard, Jack Gillis, CAPA Executive Director, announced that CAPA is in the dynamic testing phase of the new CAPA standard.

The CAPA Bumper Systems Standard will cover steel bumpers (front and rear), steel reinforcements (rebars), bumper brackets and absorbers. The CAPA program is a direct response to the critical importance of truly independent certification and testing as a mechanism for fostering market competition. “We are pleased to respond to the cross-industry demand for CAPA certification. The bottom line is that insurers, repairers, and part distributors cannot simply look at competitive parts and make an informed decision on the true comparability of that part to a car company brand part,” said Gillis.

To ensure comparability, the car company service part undergoes a comprehensive testing regimen with the results becoming the “standard” to which the aftermarket part is compared. The aftermarket part undergoes the same comprehensive testing regimen. If the test results show the aftermarket part is comparable to the car company brand part, then, and only then, it can bear the CAPA Quality Seal. “The CAPA Quality Seal is crucial because as the various “tests results” being released demonstrate, it is impossible to determine if an aftermarket part will perform comparably to a car company brand part, unless all critical aspects of the part have been tested and reviewed,” said Gillis. The CAPA program also

requires comprehensive continuous post approval inspection and marketplace monitoring.

After the dynamic bumper testing process has been completed, the proposed standard will be presented to CAPA's Technical Committee for review and approval. The CAPA Technical Committee includes representatives of key collision industry segments including repairers, distributors, manufacturers and insurers.

CAPA's new Bumper Systems Standard (CAPA 501) will benefit from CAPA's proven history in quality, safety assurance, and compliance. For over six years CAPA has been certifying automotive lighting. It was CAPA who discovered and reported FMVSS 108 compliance issues to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2004. We learned that marketplace and package claims about safety compliance may be suspect when we discovered that 80% of the aftermarket lights we tested did not meet all the requirements of FMVSS 108 even though FMVSS 108 was printed on the boxes delivered to shops by part distributors. Today, the best way insurers, shops, and distributors can ensure that aftermarket lights are truly comparable to car company brand lights and fully comply with FMVSS 108 is to look for the CAPA seal. "We look forward to offering that same benefit to the market with CAPA 501, our new bumper systems standard certification for true comparability," said Gillis.

An important component of CAPA's new bumper systems standard 501 is that the seal on each bumper will enable part tracking. Because each part has a number unique to that individual part, the CAPA TRACKER enables collision repair shops to register the part and receive notification if CAPA uncovers any potential safety-related problems with the part. For information on using the CAPA TRACKER go to www.CAPAcertified.org.

The Certified Automotive Parts Association, founded in 1987, is the nation's only independent, non-profit, certification organization for automotive crash parts whose sole purpose it to ensure that both consumers and the industry have the means to identify high quality parts via the CAPA Quality Seal. For more information see www.CAPAcertified.org.