



NATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TASK FORCE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE INFORMATION STANDARDS

(Adopted by the National Automotive Service Task Force Board of Directors October 6, 2008
and amended on December 18, 2014)

BACKGROUND. The National Automotive Service Task Force (NASTF) Board of Directors recognizes that individual Motor Vehicle Manufacturers must comply with various laws including the EPA Service Information requirements, the Massachusetts right-to-repair law and the California vehicle security requirements; and that they may voluntarily participate in the industry Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and may have voluntarily participated in the 2008 edition of the NASTF Service Information Standard which established a cooperative environment for sharing service resources between the automakers and the independent service sector of the U.S. automotive industry. The intent of these standards is to consolidate the above named compliance requirements into the policies and practice of NASTF. The purpose of these standards is to assist OEMs in achieving compliance, to guide the independent industry in their opportunities with OEMs, and to provide direction in the operations of NASTF for these purposes.

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Bi-directional Control” means the capability of a diagnostic tool to send messages on the data bus that temporarily overrides the module's control over a sensor or actuator and gives control to the diagnostic tool operator. Bi-directional controls do not create permanent changes to engine or component calibrations.

- B. “Data Stream Information” means information (i.e., messages and parameters) originated within the vehicle by a module or intelligent sensors (i.e., a sensor that contains and is controlled by its own module) and transmitted between a network of modules and/or intelligent sensors. The information is broadcast for use by the onboard diagnostic system (OBD) to gather information on components or systems and from other vehicle modules. For the purposes of these Standards, data stream information does not include engine calibration related information.

- C. “EPA” means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

- D. “Indirect Information” means any information that is not specifically contained in the service literature, but is contained in items such as tools or equipment provided to authorized dealers or others. This includes computer or anti-theft system initialization information necessary for the completion of any repair on motor vehicles that employ integral vehicle security systems.

E. “Motor Vehicle” means any self-propelled vehicle designed for transporting persons or property on public roads; provided that a vehicle model sold only to commercial fleets, only to the U.S. Armed Forces, only for export outside the United States, or offered only for lease is not deemed a “Motor Vehicle” for purposes of these Standards.

F. “Motor Vehicle Manufacturer” or “OEM” means a person or company engaged in manufacturing or assembling of new Motor Vehicles, or importing such Motor Vehicles for resale, or who acts for and is under the control of any such person or company in connection with the distribution of new Motor Vehicles, but does not include any authorized dealer with respect to new Motor Vehicles received in commerce.

G. “OEM Tools” means those tools available to an OEM’s authorized dealerships as set forth in the EPA regulations 40 CFR 86.1808-01 (f)(14). OEM Tools includes tools used on all applicable systems and is not restricted to emission-related tools.

H. “Party” means the complainant(s) and/or respondent(s) involved in a NASTF Information Request and Resolution Process. NASTF is not considered a Party.

I. “Requester” means the Service Provider requesting information in the NASTF Information Request and Resolution Process.

J. “Service Information” means any Motor Vehicle diagnostic, service, repair or maintenance information that has been made available to authorized dealers, including initialization information as referred to in Section II. B. 5. a) and b). Service Information includes information contained in repair manuals, wiring diagrams, technical service bulletins (TSBs), training information, and similar information communicated to authorized dealers. For purposes of these standards, Service Information does not include:

1. Information exchanged between individual authorized dealerships and OEMs for the purpose of better understanding and defining a technical or quality issue for which the need for a general remedy has not yet been defined or developed.
2. Information related to the administration of Motor Vehicle warranties, service contracts, or recalls under Federal or state law.
3. Dealership hot lines or tech lines.
4. Customer information.
5. Information related to the repair history of specific Motor Vehicles.
6. Access to training classes or sessions conducted by or for OEMs for authorized dealership personnel.
7. Information not made generally available to authorized dealerships by an OEM.

K. “Service Provider” means any person or company that, for compensation, services or repairs Motor Vehicles, manufactures tools or equipment for the servicing or repair of Motor Vehicles, or offers Motor Vehicle service or repair training.

L. “Tool Information” shall have the meaning set forth in the EPA regulations 40 CFR 86.1808-01 (f)(13), and shall include the Indirect Information required to emulate the repair functions of OEM Tools. Tool Information includes information related to OEM tools used on all applicable OEM-installed systems and is not restricted to emission-related tools.

M. “MOU” means Memorandum of Understanding, which is an agreement between two associations representing the independent aftermarket, represented by the AutoCare Association and the Coalition for Auto Repair Equality (CARE); and the vehicle manufacturers represented by the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and the Global Automakers. Under the MOU, the vehicle manufacturers have agreed to abide nationwide with the requirements generally specified in the Massachusetts right to repair law that was enacted in December of 2013. The MOU is attached to this document as Exhibit 1.

N. “DRP” means Dispute Resolution Panel, a 5-person panel established by the MOU and consisting of one Alliance representative, Alliance member or Alliance designee, one Global Automakers representative, Global Automakers' manufacturer member or Global Automakers designee, two representatives of the independent vehicle repair industry to be selected and mutually agreed upon by the AutoCare Association and CARE, (Original Parties) and one DRP Chair. According to the MOU, the DRP Chair is an independent professional mediator with no affiliation to the Original (MOU) Parties and is selected by unanimous consent of the Original (MOU) Parties and is to be funded in equal amounts by each of the Original (MOU) Parties.

II. AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE INFORMATION STANDARDS

A. Goals

1. To provide access, as defined in these Standards, to any Service Provider, the Service Information and OEM Tools made available by OEMs to their authorized dealers for the diagnosis and repair of Motor Vehicles.
2. To make Tool Information, as defined in these Standards, available to central repositories and/or equipment and tool companies.

B. Access to Service Information, Tool Information and OEM Tools.

To implement these goals, an OEM following these Standards will:

1. Except as otherwise set forth herein, provide access on a timely basis to Service Information, Tool Information and OEM Tools in the same manner and extent as specified in the EPA regulations governing the process for making available emissions related information, 40 CFR 86.096-38(g)(2)-(17) and 86.1808-01(f)(2)-(17). Any practice or action taken by an OEM that has received EPA approval as provided for under its

regulations, including any alternative method of information dissemination approved by EPA, is deemed in compliance with these Standards.

Where EPA's regulations do not address how to provide access to the type of Service Information or OEM Tools at issue, access would be to the same extent as for the authorized dealerships of the OEM. Service Information access need not be in the same medium as for authorized dealerships, provided it is by reasonably equivalent means.

If OEM Tools are available through an independent vendor(s), the commitment to make such tools generally available is satisfied, so long as the OEM does not place constraints on sales by the vendor(s).

2. Provide website access to Service Information.
3. Establish a response process consistent with the NASTF Standards.
4. Make available to all equipment and tool companies all generic and enhanced service information including Bi-directional Control and Data Stream Information as defined herein. This commitment can be met by providing tool information to tool companies with whom the manufacturer has licensing, contractual and/or confidentiality arrangements, or through a central repository such as the one maintained by the Equipment and Tool Institute.
5. Make vehicle security-related information available:
 - a) Provide access to information to allow installation and re-initialization of on-board computers necessary for the completion of any repair on Motor Vehicles that employ integral vehicle security systems, or the repair or replacement of any Motor Vehicle component as specified in 40 CFR 86.1808-01(6); provided that the foregoing reference shall not limit this commitment to emissions systems. In accordance with EPA regulations, if an OEM makes available a special OEM Tool that contains the functionality to permit the completion of the repair of a Motor Vehicle that employs integral vehicle security systems, this commitment shall be deemed satisfied.
 - b) by participating in the NASTF Secure Data Release Model (SDRM) an OEM commits to making information available to locksmiths, automotive technicians, and other service professionals necessary to reinitialize ignition keys for Motor Vehicles employing integral vehicle security systems in a manner that ensures motor vehicle security

III. INFORMATION REQUEST AND RESOLUTION PROCESS

A. General Information

NASTF has established Information Access Committees to facilitate an open dialogue between OEMs and Service Providers and to identify and address any missing Service Information, Tool Information, and OEM Tools. Participation on these Committees is open to anyone.

NASTF Information Access Committees include the Service Information Committee, Education Committee, Equipment & Tools Committee, Vehicle Security Committee, and Collision Committee.

Information Access Committees meet via conference call or in person at least four times each year (once each quarter). Meetings and conference calls typically include OEMs representing a majority of the vehicle market.

Service Providers that believe Service Information, Tool Information, or OEM Tools are available to authorized dealers but not to Service Providers generally, are encouraged to use the NASTF Information Request and Resolution Process. For Service Information requests, the Requester must be subscribed to the OEM's Service Information source and must have been unable to locate the Service Information within that source. For OEM Tool requests, the Requester must have attempted to obtain the OEM Tool using the procedures established by the OEM.

Parties to the NASTF Information Request and Resolution Process must act in good faith and not engage in or encourage abuse of the Process. NASTF staff shall review at least annually the implementation of the NASTF Information Request and Resolution Process to assure that no abuses are occurring.

The purpose of the Information Request and Resolution Process is to determine if:

1. The requested Service Information, Tool Information, or OEM Tool is covered by these Standards and, if so,
2. If access to the requested Service Information, Tool Information, or OEM Tools is generally available.

The following are not within the scope of the NASTF Information Request and Resolution Process:

1. Price of Service Information, Tool Information, or OEM Tools.
2. Minimum system requirements to access Service Information. OEMs are required by EPA Regulations to list the hardware and software needed to access Service Information.
3. Access to OEM technician hotline information.
4. Service Information, Tool Information or OEM Tools not made generally available to authorized dealerships.

OEM diagnostic and repair procedures are determined solely by each individual OEM. It is not within the scope of the NASTF Information Request and Resolution Process to question or try to influence OEM diagnostic procedures or methodologies. OEMs are only required to provide access to the same methodologies they use for their own authorized repair network.

B. The Information Request Process

Any Service Provider unable to locate Service Information, Tool Information, or OEM Tools may, after a reasonable attempt to find such information on the OEM website, file an Information Request as follows:

1. Request the information through the “Contact Us”, “Support”, or similar link on the OEM website.
2. If a response is not received within one business day (10 business days for Tool Information), submit an Information Request to NASTF at www.nastf.org/FileSIR. The submission of such an Information Request will require:
 - a) Requester’s Name, phone number and/or email address.
 - b) Make, model, model year, and VIN of the subject vehicle (as applicable).
 - c) A description of the repair (complaint, cause, correction) that was unable to be completed (as applicable).
 - d) A description of the Service Information, Tool Information, or OEM Tool that the Requester could not locate (e.g., specific shop manual or a specific wiring diagram).
 - e) A description of all efforts undertaken to obtain the Service Information, Tool Information, or OEM Tool needed to complete the repair, including the username for the OEM website.
 - f) Additional specific information may be needed for Tool Information.
3. The NASTF Director will review the Information Request to ensure the information requested is covered by these Standards.
4. If the Information Request is valid, the NASTF Director will forward it to the appropriate OEM contact person. If the Information Request is not valid, she/he will so inform the Requester.
5. If the Service Information, Tool Information, or OEM Tool is available on the OEM website, the OEM will inform the Requester where it is located as soon as possible but within two business days (15 business days for Tool Information) after receiving the Information Request. The OEM is encouraged to contact the Requester directly.

6. If the requested Service information, Tool Information, or OEM Tool is available to authorized dealerships, but has not been made generally available the OEM will:

- a) Provide access to the Requester as soon as possible, but no later than two business days (20 business days for Tool Information) after receiving the Information Request.
- b) Provide access on its website within seven business days (20 business days for Tool Information) after receiving the Information Request.

7. If the OEM believes that the Information Request relates to an issue not covered by these Standards, it shall acknowledge the Information Request with an appropriate explanation (e.g., the information does not exist, the information is proprietary such as information licensed from a third party, etc.). This response should be made available as soon as possible but no later than two business days (20 business days for tools information) after receiving the Information Request.

C. Information Request Review and Resolution Process

1. Information Access Review Subcommittees: The NASTF Board of Directors will appoint, based on slates of candidates put forward by each Information Access Committee, seven member Review Subcommittees to, at the request of a Party Requester, review any determination made by an OEM or NASTF Director pursuant to paragraph 7 or 4 above, respectively. The Information Request Review Subcommittees will function as follows:

- a) Membership: Each Subcommittee shall include:
 - (1) Three repair technicians and/or shop owners or operators (Equipment & Tool Committee: Three representatives of Tool Companies)
 - (2) Three representatives from OEMs
 - (3) One representative representing neither of the above groups but with experience in appropriate Information access.

2. Actions:

- a) The appropriate Subcommittee will be copied on all Information Requests and all responses to Information Requests.
- b) A Requester must request a review of any OEM response within 10 days of receiving a copy of such response.
- c) If a Subcommittee review is requested, the NASTF Director will schedule a conference call for the Subcommittee within three business days.

- d) The Subcommittee will review the Information Request and the OEM response on the conference call, and agree by majority vote whether the OEM response was appropriate or not and provide the rationale for their decision.
- e) Within one day, the NASTF Director will report the Subcommittee's decision and rationale to the OEM and Requester involved.
- f) If the Subcommittee concludes the OEM response is appropriate no further action by the OEM is required.
- g) If the Subcommittee concludes that the OEM response is inappropriate and the OEM should provide access to the Service Information, Tool Information, or OEM Tool at issue, it will indicate a practical timeframe for doing so. The OEM should notify the NASTF Director within two business days (20 business days for Tool Information) if it accepts the Subcommittee's decision and if so, should simultaneously (or as soon as practicable) make the information available to the Requester, making the same information generally available seven days thereafter.
- h) If either Party disputes a Subcommittee decision and decides to initiate action through the DRP, it should notify the NASTF Director within 15 business days after the Subcommittee's decision is communicated to the OEM.
- i) The NASTF Director will notify the designated DRP contact within two (2) business days of receipt of the Party's notice to initiate a DRP action.
- j) Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event one Requester has filed an Information Request and has proceeded with action through the DRP, no other Information Request addressing the same information will be considered. A Party electing to dispute the decision of a NASTF Information Request Review Subcommittee may do so by invoking the MOU DRP Process. A Party may only invoke this process once for any one Information Request.
- k) Any time frame referred to in these Standards can be modified by mutual consent of the parties or by the NASTF Director.
- l) Inquiries, responses and Review Subcommittee reports will be posted on the NASTF website.

IV. CONTACT INFORMATION

Executive Director
NASTF
2220 CR 210 W, Suite 108, Unit 435
St. Johns, FL 32259