



Minnesota Certified Automotive Recycler Program 2022 Annual Report

Prepared by David Kendziorski, MN-CAR Program Manager

Highlights

The Minnesota Certified Automotive Recycler (MN-CAR) program is a simple, easy, and affordable way to meet environmental, safety, and regulatory standards that apply to Minnesota's auto recycling industry. Members are audited professionally by the MN-CAR Program Manager every two years, and a self-audit is conducted between the professional audits. During the audits, compliance is verified, any deficiencies are identified, and onsite assistance is provided. In 2022, there were 11 MN-CAR members. Those members who are in substantial compliance with the standards are MN-CAR Certified.

Industry practices and regulations change over time. In 2021, the MN-CAR Program Manager and the ARM Board of Directors re-examined and updated the MN-CAR standards.

MN-CAR Members

- Aazzee's Auto Salvage, Bemidji
- A-Abco Recycled Auto Parts, Fridley
- Ace Auto Parts, St. Paul
- Automotive Parts Solutions, Rockville
- Metro Auto Salvage, Inc., Lakeville
- PAM's Auto, Inc., St. Cloud
- R&R Auto & Metal Salvage, Inc. Litchfield
- Reaper's Choice Auto Parts, Green Isle
- Sharp Auto Parts, Stillwater
- Shipman Auto Parts, Brainerd
- St. Cloud Auto Wrecking, St. Cloud

MN-CAR Services

The MN-CAR Program Manager conducted the professional MN-CAR audits, provided onsite technical assistance and regulatory updates, offered email and telephone support, prepared ARM Newsletter articles, and made a presentation at the Annual Upper Midwest Convention. In 2022, A-Abco Recycled Auto Parts, Ace Auto Parts, R & R Auto & Metal Salvage, Reaper's Choice Auto Parts, Sharp Auto Parts, and Shipman Auto Parts were professionally audited. Aazzee's Auto Salvage, Automotive Parts Solutions, Metro Auto Salvage, PAM's Auto, and St. Cloud Auto Wrecking conducted self-audits. Some of the professionally audited members needed assistance with storm water permit compliance, OSHA Haz Com compliance, and proper fluid container labeling. All MN-CAR members were in substantial compliance with the MN-CAR standards and were MN-CAR Certified in 2022.

Finally, as 2022 wraps up, the ARM Board, MN-CAR, and ARA CAR are in the early stages of coordinating the MN-CAR program and the ARA CAR program so that members can be certified in both programs if they wish.

Minnesota Certified Automotive Recycler Program

General Business Standards

1. Adequate, well-graded (or paved), well-drained customer parking area is separate from the vehicle holding area.
2. Clean and organized retail sales counter and reception area.
3. Signs in good taste and of positive tone.
4. Building and property is well maintained to reflect a clean, orderly, and safe operation.
5. Delivery and support vehicles used on public roads are well maintained, ensuring safety and a positive business image.
6. Organized salvage vehicle storage area with an emphasis on safely stored units.
7. Facility will be designated as full service, self service, or both.
8. Parts storage systems are well maintained, orderly, and clean.

Environmental Standards

1. The following fluids are properly removed as part of the dismantling procedure, prior to crushing the vehicles, or before customers remove parts at self serve facilities:
 - Fuel
 - Motor oil
 - Antifreeze
 - Transmission fluid
 - Brake fluid
2. All fluids (new and recyclable) are stored inside a building, or outside with secondary containment or double wall tank. Secondary containment must be maintained assuring that the containment device is not compromised with water from precipitation.
3. Batteries are removed and placed within a covered storage area on an impervious surface, or in plastic container with lid.
4. Refrigerant is evacuated from each salvage vehicle in accordance with Section 608 of the Clean Water Act Amendments and any applicable State requirements. Facility must have approved recovery equipment to properly remove refrigerant from the vehicles being processed and dismantled at the facility. Refrigerant must be removed/recharged by a Section 609 Certified Technician if the facility reuses refrigerant recovered from vehicles, or if refrigerant is purchased and recharged into vehicles. An employee, owner, operator, or contractor is not required to be a Section 609 Certified Technician if they only recover vehicle refrigerants.
5. Motors and transmissions (to be sold, core, and scrap) are stored under a permanent roof on an impervious surface, or in a covered weatherproof container.
6. Spent solvents from parts cleaning systems are disposed of with an authorized processor. Wash water from water-based parts washers is either recycled or collected for disposal in an approved manner.

7. Scrap tires are managed in accordance with State regulations, and are transported to approved disposal sites, never having more than a semi-trailer equivalent capacity of tires (approximately 1,300 tires) on site at any time.
8. Mercury switches in hood and trunk convenience lights are removed from salvage vehicles when present (some U.S. brand vehicles, 2002 and older).
9. Vehicle processing and dismantling is conducted on an impervious surface, and preferably under roof (if a roof is not present, excellent spill control and cleanup is provided).
10. All vehicles are fully processed before crushing. Releases of debris and fluids from the crushing operation are minimized or eliminated by using excellent spill control and cleanup during and upon completion of the crushing operation. A Spill Kit is located at the crusher site during operation. The facility crusher is placed on a concrete pad or equivalent impervious surface (does not apply to contract crushers temporarily onsite). Crushing operations are to be regularly inspected and monitored.
11. Concrete and asphalt pavement is maintained and regularly swept to prevent excessive sediment accumulation and sediment wash off during storm events.
12. Erosion controls such as stone/gravel cover , vegetation, filters, riprap, and stabilization measures are used to control erosion, scouring, and sediment runoff from unpaved roadways, drainage ways, and other unpaved areas.
13. Excessive debris and trash is cleaned up and disposed of.
14. Storm water outfalls are kept clean and free of erosion, scouring, sediment deposits, equipment, snow piles, and debris.
15. Fuel is removed from salvage vehicles in well ventilated area, separate building, or outside; ignition sources are eliminated in the area; and fuel tanks and containers are safely stored.
16. Spill prevention and response:
 - Adequately stocked spill kits are provided wherever fluids are used or stored, including fluid storage areas, vehicle processing and dismantling areas, equipment maintenance areas, vehicle crushing operation, self serve vehicle storage areas, and when fueling equipment.
 - Spill prevention practices are used, including equipment preventive maintenance, good fluid handling and storage, and proper storage of oily parts.
 - Promptly respond and clean up any significant spills and leaks of vehicle and equipment fluids and any other material that may cause environmental harm or a safety risk.
 - Spill prevention and response is addressed in the Annual Employee Storm Water Training required by the storm water permit.
 - Comply with State and Federal spill reporting and notification requirements. List all reportable spills in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

Safety Standards

1. Utilize basic personal protective equipment, including gloves, safety glasses, hard hats, safety shoes, safety vests, and other safety equipment.
2. Provide OSHA approved 15-minute eyewash station, or hard plumbed unit, readily accessible near corrosive materials (such as battery storage and recharge area and dismantling area). Provide sign.
3. Provide readily available, appropriately typed, and fully charged fire extinguishers. Document monthly inspections on tag.
4. Provide a stocked first aid kit suitable for the number of employees.

5. Document regularly scheduled (monthly or quarterly) safety meetings. Designate a safety supervisor.
6. Review and document the ARA cutting torch safety protocol with all employees authorized to use cutting torches.
7. Provide safety signs, notifications, and reminders for customers at self serve facilities, and for employees at all facilities. Such signs may address preventing and cleaning up leaks and spills, instructions for removing fluid-containing parts, cleaning up debris, proper use of equipment, torch prohibitions, fire prevention, and avoiding work-related injuries. May refer to OSHA Safety Sign Guidelines.
8. Provide proper training, supervision, and safety equipment prior to handling or dismantling hybrid or electric vehicles. (Suitable training programs to be identified).

Licensing and Regulatory Standards

1. Provide applicable salvage license or business license.
2. Meet applicable environmental regulatory requirements for storm water, refrigerant removal, and hazardous materials.
3. Document equipment operator training for employees authorized to use forklifts, loaders, and other handling equipment. Include classroom and hands-on training. Renew every 3 years.
4. Document DOT airbag shipping training (if airbags are shipped). Shipping staff and supervisor to be trained. Renew every 3 years.
5. Provide OSHA Hazard Communication required information:
 - Written Hazard Communication Plan
 - Haz Com and GHS training
 - Globally Harmonized System labels and pictograms for fluid storage, battery storage, mercury switch container, and propane tanks
 - Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
 - Job Safety and Health Poster (equal opportunity, non-discrimination, minimum wage, etc.)
 - Injury and illness record keeping and posting (OSHA 300A log) – if 10 or more employees