



NEWS

7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 760 • Bethesda, MD 20814
Tel: (301) 634-4954 • Fax: (202) 318-0378
E-mail: map@motorist.org

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For more information, contact:
Lawrence Hecker 301-634-4954

MAP Adds Standards for Battery Life, Ride Control

Bethesda, Maryland — The Motorist Assurance Program (MAP) announces important additions to three of its *Uniform Inspection & Communication Standards* (UICS) -- electrical, engine performance, and steering & suspension. These additions, which are effective immediately, focus on battery life and ride control.

Battery Life

Because lead acid automotive batteries degrade at an increasingly accelerated rate as they approach the end of their useful life operation, the revised UICS (electrical and engine performance suggests replacement when a battery tests near the “end of its useful life” utilizing a tester or on-board monitor able to accurately determine this condition. This degradation has been acknowledged within the industry for many years and is well documented. Battery test equipment exists that accurately predicts when a battery is near the end of its useful life. These testers have been evaluated and authorized for use by many vehicle OEMs. (UICS Reference: Reason Code 1 - part is close to the end of its useful life.)

Ride Control

Laboratory and field testing show that most ride control units degrade measurably by 50,000 miles. Therefore, the revised UICS (steering & suspension) suggest replacement of ride control for improved vehicle performance in vehicles using OEM hydraulic fluid and/or gas

(more)

charged shocks and struts (not electronically controlled) with 50,000 miles or more on the unit.

(UICS Reference: Reason Code 1 - part is close to the end of its useful life.)

"These additions to MAP's UICS should help to facilitate communication between service providers and motorists," said MAP President Lawrence Hecker. "MAP hopes they will be used when counseling consumers about suggested replacements, so motorists will recognize the importance of 'preventive maintenance' -- and act *before* a component fails."

E-mail Tim Tierney (tim@motorist.org) with questions.

All UICS are available in PDF format, and may be downloaded from the "Members Only" section of MAP's Web site: www.motorist.org. (A member ID and passcode is required to access the UICS online.) Non AMRA/MAP members may order current UICS at:

<http://www.motorist.org/H.HTM>

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MAP was formed in June 1994 by a group of service providers, manufacturers, associations and others who were concerned about the reputation of the automotive repair industry. MAP works to strengthen communication and trust between the industry and its customers.