

## Chapter 8

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# Motor Vehicle Mechanic Repair Categories

### Section 8-1

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#### Requirement

Section 10 of the Motor Vehicle Service and Repair Act (the Act) (MCL 257.1310) establishes certain categories of mechanic certification. A mechanic may only perform repairs if certified in the category. Questions regarding mechanic repair category descriptions should be directed to:

Michigan Department of State  
Business Compliance and Regulation Division  
Business Regulation Section  
430 W. Allegan Street  
Lansing, MI 48918

Telephone: (517) 335-1799  
E-mail: BLRD@Michigan.gov

### Section 8-2

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#### Automobile and light truck under 14,000 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVWR)

**8-2.1 Automobile and light truck engine repair.** Diagnosis, service, and repair of the internal components of light duty gas and diesel engines must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Engine Repair.

- a) Diagnosis, service, and repair of electrical components that directly control an internal engine component such as variable valve timing components, variable valve lift components, and variable displacement components must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Engine Repair or Automobile Light Truck Engine Tune-Up/Performance.
- b) Diagnosis, service, and repair of the engine cooling system, including electronic thermostats, electronic cooling fans, and electronic water pumps must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Engine Repair or Automobile and Light Truck Heating and Air Conditioning.

- c) Diagnosis, service, and repair of exhaust manifolds may be performed by a mechanic certified in Engine Repair
- d) Diagnosis, service, and repair of induction components including intake manifolds, turbo chargers, superchargers, and electronic throttle bodies must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Engine Repair or Automobile and Light Truck Tune Up/Performance.

**8-2.2 Automobile and light truck engine tune-up/performance.** Diagnosis, service, and repair of light duty gasoline and light duty diesel engine performance and emissions systems must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Tune-up/Performance. This includes all ignition, fuel, emission control systems, and diagnosis of a catalytic converter replacement as they are emissions components and are monitored by the vehicle's computer system. Catalytic converter issues often trigger the check engine light.

- a) Any repair that involves removing the camshafts, crankshaft, connecting rod caps, or cylinder heads must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Engine Repair.
- b) Timing belts, timing chains, and related timing components must be diagnosed, serviced, and repaired by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Engine Tune-up/Performance or Automobile and Light Truck Engine Repair.
- c) Light duty diesel engine performance must be diagnosed, serviced, and repaired by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Engine Tune-up/Performance or Heavy-duty Truck Engine Repair (Diesel).

**8-2.3 Automobile and light truck front end, suspension, and steering systems.**

Diagnosis, service, and repair of front and rear suspension and steering systems must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Front End, Suspension and Steering Systems.

- a) Automobile and Light Truck Front End, Suspension, and Steering Systems mechanics are the only mechanics that may perform alignments.
- b) Shock absorbers, which are not built in combination with other components, such as a spring, do not require a certification to replace.
- c) Vehicle frames, **which have not been damaged in a collision**, must be replaced by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Front End, Suspension, and Steering Systems. Repairing or adjusting structural components and repairing structural damage must be performed by a mechanic certified in Unitized Body and Structural Repair.

**8-2.4 Automobile and light truck brakes and braking systems.** Diagnosis, service, repair, and adjustment of components in the braking system must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Brakes and Braking Systems.

- a) Wheel bearings, wheel bearing/hub assemblies, wheel hubs, universal joints, and continuous velocity axles must be serviced by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Brakes and Braking Systems; Automobile and Light Truck Front End, Suspension, and Steering Systems; Automobile and Light Truck Automatic Transmissions; or Automobile and Light Truck Manual Transmission, Front and Rear Drive Axles.

**8-2.5 Automobile and light truck automatic transmission.** Diagnosis, service and repair of automatic transmissions and automatic transaxles must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Automatic Transmissions.

- a) Automatic transmission fluid may be changed as a maintenance item without a mechanic certification.
- b) Any diagnosis of an automatic transmission's internal components must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Automatic Transmissions.

**8-2.6 Automobile and light truck manual transmission, front and rear drive axles.**

Diagnosis, service, and repair of manual transmissions, manual transaxles, clutches, drive shafts, differential assemblies, axles, and transfer cases must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Manual Transmission, and Front and Rear Drive Axles.

- a) Transfer cases may also be diagnosed, serviced, and repaired by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Automatic Transmissions.
- b) Wheel bearings, wheel bearing/hub assemblies, wheel hubs, universal joints, and continuous velocity axles may be serviced by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Brakes and Braking Systems; Automobile and Light Truck Front End, Suspension, and Steering Systems; Automobile and Light Truck Automatic Transmissions; or Automobile and Light Truck Manual Transmission, Front and Rear Drive Axles.

**8-2.7 Automobile and light truck electrical systems.** Diagnosis, service, and repair of electrical systems must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Electrical Systems. A mechanic who is certified in another category may also work on the electrical components and circuits that are directly related to the diagnosis and repair of components within that category.

- a) Diagnosis, service, and repair of vehicle control modules must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Electrical systems or by a mechanic certified in the repair category relevant to the system being diagnosed.
- b) Diagnosis, service, and repair of vehicle restraint systems **not involved in a collision** must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile

and Light Truck Electrical Systems. If the vehicle has been involved in a collision, the mechanic must be certified in Collision-Related Mechanical Repair.

**8-2.8 Automobile and light truck heating and air conditioning.** Diagnosis, service, repair and adjustment of heating and air conditioning systems must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Heating and Air Conditioning.

- a) Automobile and Light Truck Heating and Air Conditioning is the only repair category that may evacuate and/or recharge air conditioning systems.
- b) Blower motors, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) control units, and other electrical repairs that do not require coolant or refrigerant to be evacuated or recharged may also be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Electrical Systems.

**8-2.9 Collision-related mechanical repair.** A mechanic certified in Collision-Related Mechanical Repair may remove and replace motor vehicle components that are clearly damaged by a collision. The diagnosis, repair, replacement, or overhaul of mechanical components not damaged by a collision must be performed by a mechanic certified in the appropriate repair categories. A mechanic certified in Collision-Related Mechanical Repair may disconnect other vehicle components in order to gain access to the collision-damaged components.

A mechanic with the Collision-Related Mechanical Repair certification is NOT allowed to perform the following services or repairs:

- a) Advanced Driver-Assisted Systems (ADAS) and Vehicle Calibration must be performed by a mechanic certified in Automobile and Light Truck Electrical Systems.
- b) Charging of air conditioning systems must be performed by a mechanic certified in Heating and Air Conditioning.
- c) Wheel alignment must be performed by a mechanic certified in Front End, Suspension, and Steering Systems.

**8-2.10 Unitized body and structural repair.** Repairing or replacing components that affect the structural integrity of a vehicle must be performed by a mechanic certified in Unitized Body and Structural Repair. **This includes a person who performs a diagnosis on a damaged vehicle.**

- a) Repairing a dent from a roof or quarter panel, without cutting or welding, is not viewed as “affecting the structural integrity of the vehicle” and does not require certification.
- b) Sectioning or replacement of the roof panel or quarter panel requires the person performing the repair to be certified in Unitized Body and Structural Repair.

- c) Repair or replacement of a bolt-on non-structural components, such as a hood, fender, door, deck lid, hatch or bumper, does not require certification.

*Note: A mechanic certified in Unitized Body and Structural Repair is required to diagnose ALL VEHICLES DAMAGED IN A COLLISION to determine if the structural components are sound. If a collision/body shop does not employ a mechanic who is certified in Unitized Body or Structural Repair, the facility MUST sublet the diagnosis of the structural components to a facility that has a mechanic certified in Unitized Body and Structural Repair. If the facility chooses to sublet the diagnosis, the facility and mechanic information must be properly noted on the invoice. Record keeping requirements for sublet repairs can be found in Section 5-3, Chapter 5 of the Repair Manual.*

**8-2.11 Pre-1973 vehicle repair.** Mechanics who are engaged exclusively in the repair of vehicles manufactured before 1973 may be certified in the specialty category of Pre-1973 Vehicles. This also applies to mechanics who are engaged in the reconditioning, replacement, adjustment, or alteration of the operating condition of pre-1973 vehicles. Mechanics currently certified in other appropriate categories may also work on pre-1973 vehicles, but a mechanic only certified in Pre-1973 Vehicle Repair may not diagnose, service, or repair vehicle manufactured during or after 1973.

- a) The pre-1973 vehicle mechanic may *not* perform body structural repairs. The mechanic must be certified in Unitized Body and Structural Repair.
- b) The Pre-1973 Vehicles category is *not* necessary for a master mechanic certificate.

## **Section 8-3**

### **Heavy-duty trucks over 14,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)**

**8-3.1 Heavy-duty truck engine repair (gasoline).** Preventive maintenance, diagnosis, and repair of gasoline engines in trucks over 14,000 pounds GVWR must be performed by a mechanic certified in Heavy-duty Truck Engine Repair (Gasoline).

**8-3.2 Heavy-duty truck engine repair (diesel).** Diagnosis, service, repair and adjustment of diesel engines in trucks over 14,000 pounds GVWR must be performed by a mechanic certified in Heavy-duty Truck Engine Repair (Diesel).

**8-3.3 Heavy-duty truck drive train.** Diagnosis, service, repair and adjustment of transmissions, clutches, propeller shafts and driving axle assemblies in vehicles over 14,000 pounds GVWR must be performed by a mechanic certified in Heavy-duty Truck Drive Train.

**8-3.4 Heavy-duty truck brakes and braking systems.** Diagnosis, service, repair and adjustment of components in the braking systems on trucks over 14,000 pounds GVWR must be performed by a mechanic certified in Heavy-duty Truck Brakes and Braking Systems.

**8-3.5 Heavy-duty truck suspension and steering systems.** Diagnosis, service, repair and adjustment of suspension and steering systems of vehicles over 14,000 pounds GVWR must be performed by a mechanic certified in Heavy-duty Truck Suspension and Steering Systems.

- a) This is the only repair category that may perform alignments on vehicles weighing over 14,000 pounds.

**8-3.6 Heavy-duty truck electrical systems.** Diagnosis, service, repair and adjustment of electrical systems on trucks over 14,000 pounds GVWR must be performed by a mechanic certified in Heavy-duty Truck Electrical Systems. A mechanic who is certified in another category may also work on the electrical components and circuits that are directly interrelated to the repair of components within that category.

*Note: There is not a certification for heavy duty heating and air conditioning. Automobile and Light Truck Heating and Air Conditioning is the only repair category that may evacuate and/or recharge air conditioning systems.*

## **Section 8-4**

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### **Motorcycle**

Diagnosis, service, repair and adjustment of motorcycles and component parts, including engine and fuel systems, electrical systems, braking systems, drive trains, and chassis must be performed by a mechanic certified in Motorcycle Repair.

## **Section 8-5**

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### **Recreational trailer**

**8-5.1 Definition.** A recreational trailer is a travel trailer, camper trailer, or other special purpose or utility trailer used on the highway and towed by an automobile or light truck with a gross towing weight of less than 10,000 pounds. Diagnosis, service, repair, and adjustment of the mechanical, electrical and suspension components, including brakes, axles, bearings, and springs of the recreational trailer, must be performed by a mechanic certified in Recreational Trailer Repair.

## **Section 8-6**

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### **Repair category charts**

**8-6.1 Automobile and light truck repair areas of repair key.** Below is a key and chart for common repairs and which mechanic specialty category is necessary to diagnose, service, or repair an area of an automobile or light truck. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list. Please contact the Business Regulation Section if you have questions about an area of repair that is not found on the chart below.

## 8-6.2 Automobile and light truck areas of repair key and chart

### Category and abbreviation

Engine Repair	ER	Automatic Transmission	AT
Manual Transmission, Front & Rear Drive Axel	MT	Front End, Suspension, & Steering Systems	FE
Brakes & Braking Systems	B	Electrical Systems	E
Heating & Air-Conditioning	HAC	Engine Tune-up & Performance	ET

### Area serviced and acceptable certification

A/C compressor	HAC
A/C compressor clutch (without discharging refrigerant or coolant)	E, HAC, Collision Related Mechanical Repair in conjunction with a collision repair
A/C evaporator	HAC
Air bags and other restraint system components <b>not</b> damaged in a collision.	E
Air bags and other restraint system components that <b>have</b> been damaged by a collision.	Collision Related Mechanical (scanning/clearing of a trouble code requires electrical certification)
Alternator	E
Axle bearings and hubs	FE, B,
Blower motor, blower motor resistor, HVAC actuators, and switches.	HAC, E
Catalytic converter diagnosis	ET
Clutch	MT, ER
Cooler lines and auxiliary coolers.	Any auto light truck or heavy-duty truck category
Engine assembly (removal and replacement)	ER
Exhaust manifold	ER
Fan (electrical)	ER, ET, HAC, E
Fan clutch	ER, ET, HAC
<u>Fuel filler tube</u>	Any auto light truck category
Flexplate	ET, ER, AT
Flywheel	ET, ER, MT
Freeze (core) plugs	Any auto light truck or heavy-duty truck category
Accessory drive belt idler, or tensioner pulleys.	Any auto light truck or heavy-duty truck category
Fuel pump (electrical) and/or sending unit.	ET
Fuel injection	ET
Fuel pump (mechanical)	ER, ET
Heater core	HAC

In-car temperature sensor	HAC, E
Instrument cluster	E
Intake manifold or gasket	ER, ET
Parking brake	B
Parking brake - electronic	B, E
Radios, info/entertainment screens, and other control panels.	E
Rear control arms	FE
Rocker arms and push rods	ER, ET
Shift linkage	AT, MT
Stabilizer bushings and sway bar links	Any auto light truck or heavy-duty truck category
Starter	E
Tappet or rocker covers and gaskets	ER, ET
Thermostat and external water pump	ER, HAC
Timing belt and/or chain and gears	ER, ET
Transfer case	MT, AT
Wiring repairs	E

**8-6.3 Heavy-duty truck areas of repair key.** Below is a key and chart for common repairs and which mechanic specialty category is necessary to diagnose, service, or repair an area of a heavy-duty truck (over 14,000 pounds). This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list. Please contact the Business Regulation Section if you have questions about an area of repair that is not found on the chart below.

#### 8-6.4 Heavy-duty truck areas of repair key and chart

##### Category and abbreviation

Engine Repair (Gasoline)	HD	Brakes & Braking Systems	HDB
Engine Repair (Diesel)	HD	Suspension & Steering Systems	HDS
Drivetrains	HDT	Electrical Systems	HDE

##### Area serviced and acceptable certification

Air compressors	HDB, HDG, HDD
Air shift components	HDT, HDB
Air starters	HDD, HDB, B
Air suspension system	HDS, HDB
Brake gauges and instrumentation	HDB, HDE
Clutch (with major engine repairs)	HDT, HDG, HDD
Cylinder head gasket	HDG, HDD
Diesel exhaust after treatment system	HDD
Driving axle suspension	HDS, HDT
Electric trailer brakes	HDB, Recreational trailer
Exhaust manifold	HDG, HDD

Flywheel or flexplate	HDG, HDD, HDT
Fan clutch	ER, HDG, HDD, HAC
Freeze (core) plugs	HDG, HDD, ER, ET, HAC
Front or rear pulley or harmonic balancer	Any heavy-duty truck certification
Fuel pump	HDG, HDD
Grease seals	HDT
Heater water valve	HDG, HDD, HAC
Hydraulic brake systems	HDB
Ignition system	HDG, HDD, HDE
Oil pan and gaskets	Any heavy-duty truck certification
Rocker arms and push rods	HDG, HDD
Shift linkage (mechanical)	HDT, HDG, HDD
Tappet or rocker covers and gaskets	HDG, HDD
Temperature gauge units	HDE
Thermostat	HDG, HDD, HAC
Torque converter planetary transmissions	HDT
Towed vehicle suspension	HDS, HDB
Transmission or drive shaft mounted parking brakes	HDB, HDT
Transmission mounts	Any auto light truck or heavy-duty truck category
Water pump	Any auto light truck or heavy-duty truck category
Wheel bearings	HDB, HDT, HDS
Wheel hubs	HDB, HDT, HDS
Wheel studs	HDB, HDT, HDS

## Section 8-7

### Mechanic certification requirements involving sublet repairs

When vehicles or major components are sublet to another repair facility for repair, the following requirements must be met:

#### 8-7.1 Vehicles sublet to another repair facility for major repairs:

- The second facility must employ, and have the repairs performed by, a mechanic that is properly certified in the category for the repair(s) being performed.
- If the first facility diagnosed the need for repair, the name and certification number of the diagnosing mechanic must appear on the customer's invoice, along with the name and certification number of the mechanic who performed the repairs.

#### 8-7.2 Components (such as an engine or a transmission) sublet to another

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**facility for repairs:**

- The facility removing the part must employ a properly certified mechanic to diagnose, remove, or reinstall the part.
- The full names and mechanic certification numbers of the mechanics who diagnosed, removed, or reinstalled the part must be documented on the final invoice provided to the customer.

**Section 8-8****Minor repairs**

**8-8.1 Definition.** Mechanic certification is generally not required for minor repairs; however, certain exceptions apply (see below key and chart for more information). "Minor repair services" means lubrication; oil changes; installing, changing, or otherwise servicing the antifreeze or other coolant; body repairing, except for unitized body structural repair; or the replacement, adjustment, repair, or servicing of any of the following parts and assemblies:

**8-8.2 Automobile and light truck areas of minor repair key and chart****Category and abbreviation**

Engine Repair	ER	Automatic Transmission	AT
Manual Transmission, Front & Rear Drive Axel	MT	Front End, Suspension, & Steering Systems	FE
Brakes & Braking Systems	B	Electrical Systems	E
Heating & Air-Conditioning	HAC	Engine Tune-up & Performance	ET

**Area serviced and acceptable certification**

Air cleaner element	No certification required
Accessory drive belt	No certification required
Air pump hose	ET
12-volt battery	No certification required
Ground cable for 12-volt battery	E
Hold down strap for 12-volt battery	No certification required
Positive cable for 12-volt battery	E
Battery-to-starter relay cable for 12-volt battery	E
Crankcase vent air cleaner	ET
Crankcase vent air cleaner hose	ET
Engine oil filter	No certification required
Exhaust pipe, muffler, or tailpipe, etc.	No certification required
Catalytic converter	ET
Fuel filter	ET
Fuel line flex hose or line	ET

Fuel tank	ET
Fuse	E
Heater hose	ER, HAC
Horn	E
Accessory belt idler pulley, adjust only	No certification required
Ignition coil output wire	ET
Lightbulb or headlamp	No certification required
Motor mount	ER
Transmission mount	AT, MT
Ornamental accessories	No certification required
Positive crankcase ventilation control valve	ET
Radiator	ER, HAC
Radiator hose, upper or lower	ER, HAC
Radiator reserve tank	ER, HAC
Rear spring, leaf or coil, except a MacPherson strut-type assembly	No certification required
Shock absorber that is not built in combination with other suspension parts	No certification required
Analog speedometer	E
Vapor canister hose	ET
Wheel, except alignment	No certification required
Windshield washer hose	No certification required
Windshield washer tank	No certification required
Wiper blade	No certification required

### 8-8.3 Heavy-duty truck areas of minor repair key and chart

#### Category and abbreviation

Engine Repair (Gasoline)	HD	Brakes & Braking Systems	HDB
Engine Repair (Diesel)	HD	Suspension & Steering Systems	HDS
Drivetrains	HDT	Electrical Systems	HDE

#### Area serviced and acceptable certification

Air cleaner element	No certification required
Accessory drive belt	No certification required
Air pump hose	HDG, HDD
12-volt battery	No certification required
Ground cable for 12-volt battery	HDE
Hold down strap for 12-volt battery	No certification required
Positive cable for 12-volt battery	HDE
Battery-to-starter relay cable for 12-volt battery	HDE
Crankcase vent air cleaner	HDG, HDD
Crankcase vent air cleaner hose	HDG, HDD
Engine oil filter	No certification required

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Exhaust pipe, muffler, or tailpipe, etc.	No certification required
Catalytic converter	HDG, HDD
Fuel filter	HDG, HDD
Fuel line flex hose or line	HDG, HDD
Fuel tank	HDG, HDD
Fuse	HDE
Heater hose	HDG, HDD, HAC
Horn	HDE
Accessory belt idler pulley, adjust only	No certification required
Ignition coil output wire	HDG
Lightbulb or headlamp	No certification required
Motor mount	HDG, HDD
Transmission mount	HDT
Ornamental accessories	No certification required
Positive crankcase ventilation control valve	HDG, HDD
Radiator	HDG, HDD, HAC
Radiator hose, upper or lower	HDG, HDD, HAC
Radiator reserve tank	HDG, HDD, HAC
Rear spring, leaf or coil, except a MacPherson strut-type assembly	No certification required
Shock absorber that is not built in combination with other suspension parts	No certification required
Analog speedometer	HDE
Vapor canister hose	HDG, HDD
Wheel, except alignment	No certification required
Windshield washer hose	No certification required
Windshield washer tank	No certification required
Wiper blade	No certification required