

On behalf of California Casualty and CIECA, Michael Lloyd outlines the benefits of BMS to you as a collision repair provider. What action can you take? Please read the following article to see how you can help move our industry forward.

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BMS vs. EMS: Moving Into the 21st Century

Estimate Management Standard (EMS) is today's equivalent of dial-up communication. It was great in its day but no longer has the horsepower to get the job done. EMS is the open, non-proprietary system for electronic communication that was deployed in the last Century—in 1994 to be exact. You may be familiar with one function of EMS as the non-proprietary estimate format used by any of the three major estimating systems today.

Today's Business Messaging Specifications (BMS) can replace the over-extended EMS. It is the 21st Century answer to communicating massive amounts of data in a secure and efficient manner. BMS is the language of the internet and offers businesses the ability to control what data is made available. As Fred Iantorno, Executive Director of CIECA, stated: "Implementing the BMS will make everyone more efficient and will save the industry money".

Why is BMS important to collision repair shops?

BMS offers shops three primary benefits to the Collision Repair industry, according to Michael Lloyd, CIECA's Vice Chairman and Assistant Vice President and Home Office Material Damage Manager for California Casualty Management Company.

Security: BMS allows users to control data exchanged between its trading partners. Businesses can transmit only the data needed by its suppliers, thereby retaining the confidentiality and security of the data that is in their possession.



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Scalability: In the same way that the internet was designed to support the communication needs of all users, BMS simultaneously supports the needs of both small and large businesses. BMS follows the "language of the internet" or XML, which provides a consistent communication standard, vs. the very limited scope of EMS. As a result, BMS allows all businesses to exchange data using common data fields or definitions. Regardless of size, BMS can meet the needs of any business.

Efficiency: Since BMS follows the XML standard, BMS can operate in any environment—server, mainframe, Microsoft Windows, MAC, etc., greatly reducing cost. BMS eliminates the expense and inefficiencies associated with re-keying data. Once data is part of the BMS record, it does not need to be re-entered. All History is retained, which allows the re-creation of an estimate from a prior time period, according to Fred Iantorno. BMS is "backward and forward" compatible, meaning that new releases and maintenance are easily implemented, providing a lower cost of operation.

Conclusion

Replace your tired communications standard with BMS efficiency. You can learn more about the benefits of the new BMS standard, by visiting www.CIECAUniversity.com. Contact your Estimating and Body Shop Management System provider and ask for information about the availability of the BMS from them.

Wide-spread adoption of the BMS standard will move our industry towards a more robust and efficient exchange of data. As Fred Iantorno stated, "BMS has something for everyone".