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ARA Endorses CIECA's XML Standards

Fairfax, VA – The Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA) has endorsed the “XML Business Message Specifications” established by the Collision Industry Electronic Commerce Association (CIECA).

CIECA's Standards Development Committees, a dedicated group of insurers, repairers and automotive recyclers produced a set of working standards of unprecedented value to repairers, parts & materials suppliers, insurers, information and software providers, general service providers, and other related industry segments. The standards represent a consensus between the six industry segments on how to exchange information between companies for the benefit of the vehicle owner and the industry. Working in good faith and with mutual respect were cited as keys to the endorsement.

The CIECA standards currently include ninety (90) messages for doing business within the Collision industry. These messages cover a wide variety of business functions from assignments, estimates, dispositions, images, parts and material procurement, rentals, and, authorizations, to invoicing and remittance.

Of particular interest to recyclers are the thirty-eight (38) messages covering Salvage assignment, disposition, procurement, invoicing and remittance. An overview chart is posted and available for download on the CIECA Web site at: http://cieca.com/CIECA_RM-Overview.htm

“We are very pleased to announce the endorsement of the CIECA standards for use in the recycling industry. There is no doubt that agreeing on the use of CIECA's standards provides value to the whole industry. We see it as an advantage to our members and their partners in terms of cost savings, data quality, improved trading partner communications, and increased efficiency” said George Eliades, ARA CEO. Continuing, he added **“This is a great step forward for the entire industry and we can only hope others will follow.”**

CIECA Executive Director, Fred Iantorno said, “ARA's endorsement of these standards further emphasizes how important CIECA has become in bringing together the various segments of the industry with the common goal of communicating electronically, independent of platform or software used. CIECA standards provide a common foundation for all industry constituents to develop new delivery channels and applications for the industry. Developing Electronic Commerce standards that meet the needs of the collision industry is the main focus of CIECA.”

About CIECA: CIECA (Collision Industry Electronic Commerce Association) develops collision industry Information Technology standards and provides implementation guides for electronic commerce. CIECA is composed of members of the automobile collision repair industry; repairers, insurers, vehicle manufacturers, parts and material suppliers, information and software providers, general service providers and related segments and industries. CIECA's goals are to deliver benefits to all participants through reduced development and support costs, lower cost of implementation, reduced barrier to entry and faster development times. To learn more about CIECA, visit www.cieca.com or call 847-498-6945.

About ARA: Founded in 1943 and based in Fairfax, Virginia, the Automotive Recyclers Association represents an industry dedicated to the efficient removal and reuse of automotive parts, and the proper disposal of inoperable motor vehicles. With programs such as the Certified Auto Recycler program, Gold Seal and other partnerships with automotive manufacturers, automotive recycling will continue to provide consumers with quality, low cost alternatives for vehicle replacement parts, while preserving our environment for tomorrow.

For more information on ARA, visit the ARA homepage at <http://www.a-r-a.org> or call (703) 385-1001.