

Apprenticeship Training Programme

Phase 1: *With Employer*

Induction Training
Introduction to Health & Safety Training
Introduction to Tools & Equipment
Introduction to Basic Skills

Phase 2: *Delivered in Training Centre (20 weeks)*

Course Content:

Induction
Welding/Fabrication
Panel Repairs (Bench)
Basic Vehicle Alignment
Mechanical
Spray Painting
Damage Assessment, Crash Repairs, Valeting
Related Theory

Phase 3: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

Phase 4: *Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)*

Course Content:

Welding/Panel Repairs
Engine Management Systems
Automobile Electricity/Electronics
Chassis Alignment & Repair
Spray Painting
Related Theory

Phase 5: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

Phase 6: *Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)*

Course Content:

Mechanical
Major Structural Repairs
Aluminium Vehicles Bodies
Replacement of Major Structural Units
Steel Welding
Spray Painting
Related Theory

Phase 7: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

The overall duration of this apprenticeship is a minimum of 4 years provided all phases are successfully completed. On successful completion of the programme the learner is awarded a Level 6 Advanced Certificate Craft – Vehicle Body Repairs.

For further information please contact your
local Education & Training Board Training Centre
or log onto www.SOLAS.ie

The Craft of Vehicle Body Repairs



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 **Apprenticeship**

KNOWLEDGE. SKILL. COMPETENCE

Overview

Vehicle body repairers are employed in the motor industry in garages with vehicle repair facilities and in 'specialised' repair shops. The vehicle body repairer requires a comprehensive knowledge of vehicle body construction and the work involves assessment of damage and preparation of estimates, panel repair and replacement, body alignment, spray painting and customised alterations. Due to modern technology the use of computerised and electronically-controlled systems is now an important aspect of a vehicle body repairer's job, together with an increasing emphasis on the development of communications and customer relation skills.

Work Activities

Vehicle body repairers repair damage to the bodywork of cars, trucks and coaches, ranging from scratches, dents and rust to major accident damage. This may involve hammering out dents or filling with body solder or plastic fillers. Vehicle body repairers also fit complete new panels supplied by the vehicle manufacturer.

Sometimes they fabricate part panels and shape sheet metal on a workbench themselves before welding it into place.

In workshops where spray painting is not a separate job, they also prepare the new or repaired panels as per manufacturer's instructions. They then apply primers such as etch primer, filler primer and surface primers.

The primers are then flattened using a wet or dry flattening system as per manufacturer's instructions. Paint is mixed as per vehicle paint code. Base coat and lacquer paint are applied and baked to cure. The paint finish is polished if required as per manufacturer's instructions.

The application of primers, lacquers etc. are carried out in special booths using extractor fans. Personal protection equipment (PPE) must be worn during all aspects of the repair.

Aspects of Work

- Learning new practical skills
- Using hand skills to shape metal
- Working with vehicles
- Learning and developing new craft-related skills, knowledge and competence
- Being physically active
- Attention to detail
- Practical skills and theoretical knowledge
- Operating machines
- Understanding technical drawings and diagrams
- Being accurate with numbers in counting, measuring and arithmetic
- Lifting or carrying heavy items
- Working in a noisy environment
- Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time

Personal Qualities and Skills

Vehicle body repairers should be good with their hands. You must be patient and careful to achieve a perfectly smooth finish. You should be physically fit for lifting and bending and have a good eye for detail.

There is also an increasing emphasis on the development of communications and customer relations.

Opportunities

Opportunities arise from time-to-time for promotion to supervisor level. Many persons use an apprenticeship as a first step in proceeding to such occupations as instructors, teachers, training advisers, managers and owners of businesses.

Where apprentices and crafts persons have the necessary ability, initiative and basic qualifications, opportunities are available for advancement. These include advanced technological and management courses which are available in Institutes of Technology, Schools of Management, Professional Institutes, etc.

People anxious to advance themselves in their careers are advised to discover for themselves what opportunities are available.

Educational Requirements

The minimum age at which the employment of an apprentice may commence is 16 years of age.

The minimum educational requirements are:

1. Grade D in five subjects in the Department of Education & Skills Junior Certificate Examination or an approved equivalent,
or
2. The successful completion of an approved Pre-Apprenticeship course
or
3. Three years' work experience gained over sixteen years of age in a relevant designated industrial activity as SOLAS shall deem acceptable

You must obtain a job as an apprentice in your chosen occupation. Your employer must be approved to train apprentices and must register you as an apprentice within 2 weeks of recruitment.

In certain crafts, apprenticeship applicants are required to pass a colour vision test approved by SOLAS.