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A clear view on remanufacturing

CLEPA, the European Association of Automotive Suppliers, has a clear view on remanufacturing and is showing this by participating to ReMaTec 2011 in Amsterdam, the biggest European trade-fair on remanufacturing.

CLEPA members active in remanufacturing see this part of the automotive industry as a future core business. Consequently it is important to underline the importance and benefits of remanufacturing on different aspects.

CLEPA identifies the aspects of a remanufactured product in a definition with a linked industrial process:

“A remanufactured product fulfils a similar function to the original part. It is manufactured using a standardised industrial process in line with specific technical specifications. The industrialised process incorporates defined core management standards. A remanufactured spare part is warranted as a new spare part.”

Non-new Automotive Spare Parts - categories and requirements/actions

	core (used part - as removed from vehicle)	cleaning	superficial examination	diagnosis of complete assembly (product)	replace components	test complete assembly	core evaluation	dismantling	cleaning components	examine / test components	components rework	assembling	end of line testing	assembly marking / labelling	packaging	test on vehicle	ISO Certification	ISO TS 16949 Certification	comments
REUSED	■																		quality unknown
REFURBISHED	■	■	■			■									■		■		internal condition unknown
REPAIRED - reconstructed - reconditioned - renovated - restored - rebuilt	■		■	■	■											■	■		works at time of test
REMANUFACTURED - "standard exchange" *	■						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	meets a specific technical specification

■ necessary ■ option

Remanufacturing for instance is a sustainable development activity; it significantly contributes to the savings of CO₂ and raw materials and has a positive impact on the employment in the automotive industry. Additionally, products that were remanufactured according to an industrial process are safe and reliable.

CLEPA expects remanufacturing to become increasingly present in the automotive industry, not only for mechanical parts but also for mechatronics such as electronic control units (ECU).

Therefore, CLEPA members jointly drew up a definition of remanufacturing linked to a remanufacturing process. The aim is to clearly differentiate the remanufacturing of CLEPA members with refurbished, rewashed, reused, etc.

Amongst others, the following CLEPA members are active in remanufacturing: ArvinMeritor, Continental, Delphi, GKN, Honeywell, Knorr-Bremse, Robert Bosch GmbH, Remy Automotive Europe, Schaeffler Group, TRW, Valeo, Wabco and ZF.

One of the objectives of the CLEPA remanufacturing working group is to raise awareness with government bodies and the European Institutions to share the positive aspects of remanufacturing in order to develop a favourable legislative framework for the remanufacturing business.

An example of this is the lobbying activity of CLEPA to include remanufacturing in Foreign Trade Agreements (FTAs) the European Commission pursues with external countries to enhance the core return process.

There are many activities from different associations in remanufacturing. Josef Frank, Director Aftermarket at CLEPA states that CLEPA as an accredited partner to the European Union and United Nations aims to highlight the values of remanufacturing on employment, environment and safety to all government bodies. "It is our target to establish remanufacturing as a brand", Frank said.

Remanufacturing will also be on the agenda of the third CLEPA Aftermarket Conference on 24 November in Brussels.

CLEPA is convinced of the necessity of being present at ReMaTec 2011, promoting remanufacturing and exchanging ideas with the experts there present.

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CLEPA is the European Association of Automotive Suppliers. 84 of the world's most prominent suppliers for car parts, systems and modules and 26 National trade associations and European sector associations are members of CLEPA, representing more than 3,000 companies, employing more than three million people and covering all products and services within the automotive supply chain.

Based in Brussels, Belgium, CLEPA is recognized as the natural discussion partner by the European Institutions, United Nations and fellow associations (ACEA, CECRA, FIGIEFA, JAMA, MEMA, etc).