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**Right2Choose**



Your Car: Your Choice

## Press Release

### **RIGHT TO CHOOSE CAMPAIGN TRADE PRESS LAUNCH**

A new organisation, R2C (Right to Choose) has been established by independent aftermarket suppliers, distributors and repairers to create greater public awareness of the law and motorists' rights to choose where to have their vehicles serviced without being penalised.

Many motorists with vehicles under manufacturers' warranty are under the misguided impression that any servicing, maintenance or repairs must be carried out by the authorised dealer otherwise their warranty is invalidated.

The Right to Choose Campaign aims to inform the Motoring Public of their Right to Choose to have their car serviced or repaired by an independent garage or service outlet without invalidating the vehicle warranty. It is a National, industry-wide Campaign, apolitical and aimed at promoting the benefits to the motorist of using the independent aftermarket.

Following the successful conclusion to the European-wide Right to Repair Campaign which resulted in revised rules for motor vehicle distribution and repair, motorists can now shop around for the most competitive price and convenient location for servicing their cars.

Under the European Union rules, introduced in June 2010, car manufacturers can no longer make the warranty conditional on having the car serviced, or even simple things like oil changes, done in the dealers' workshops.

Unsurprisingly, dealers choose not to tell car owners that their warranty is still intact wherever they choose to have their cars serviced\*, but the 'RIGHT TO CHOOSE' campaign aims to put that right.

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Evidence that franchised dealers are informing their customers that they must have their car serviced by a main dealer or their warranty is invalidated would be passed by the R2C campaign to the European Commission who is empowered to tackle abuses which bring detriment to consumers.

The Campaign founders are urging all in the independent aftermarket to support this campaign: parts manufacturers and importers, distributors and retailers and repairers.

Attractive posters and leaflets explaining motorists' rights and promoting independent businesses will be available; all bearing the distinctive R2C logo.

The campaign will actively promote the independent aftermarket repairers and services through a series of Retail Press Releases, activities and events around the country. If you want to help your business succeed in today's climate please register with the Right to Choose Campaign at:

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#### Editor's Notes:

- The rules referred to above are the European Regulation 461/2010 (Motor Vehicle Block Exemption). Regulation 461/2010 has been introduced, along with a set of Supplementary Guidelines on Vertical Restraints in Agreements for the Sale and Repair of Motor Vehicles and for the Distribution of Spare Parts for Motor Vehicles (the 'Supplementary Guidelines'). The new Regulation contains a list of hardcore restrictions applicable to the motor vehicle aftermarket – repair, maintenance and the sale of spare parts – which came into force on 1 June 2010. It also extends the application of the provisions of Regulation 1400/2002 relating to distribution agreements and concerted practices of new motor vehicles until June 2013. After that date, the exemption of such contracts will be regulated by the general regime for vertical agreements, the newly adopted Regulation 330/2010.
- \*In order to retain the vehicle warranty it is essential that the car manufacturer's service schedule is adhered to and that full records of the vehicle's service history are retained. In addition, details of any parts fitted or consumables, such as oil or coolant, should be retained in order to refute any allegation by a dealer that the warranty has been invalidated.
- One of the sponsor organisations, the Independent Automotive Aftermarket Federation (IAAF), has successfully challenged hundreds of cases where dealers have misleadingly told motorists that servicing vehicles outside the dealer network has invalidated the warranty.