

ARIES WEBINAR

Q&A



ARIES Webinar highlights industry momentum towards sustainable repair

Over 200 repairers and suppliers joined the session last week to explore practical steps for improving sustainability in Automotive Repair.

Created by the industry for the industry, ARIES engagement, support and uptake of the new standard have far exceeded expectations set out just over a year ago.

The session was hosted by two members of the ARIES Founding Group, Chris McKie, Group CEO Vizion, Steve Silverwood Managing Director of ECA business energy, together with Karen Jakes ARIES Programme Manager. Attendees were taken through the ARIES journey; why it was created, what it means for them, the benefits to their business and plans to continue to evolve the standard.

ARIES was introduced to help transition repairers from the current PAS2060 standard which was withdrawn at the end of 2025. The new standard was designed to move the industry to align with the SBTi framework and other International Standards. ARIES offers support to Repairers to help them meet sustainability targets and reduce carbon emissions in a simple, standardised and transparent way.

Guest speakers Wayne Mason-Drust, Managing Director from Accident Express and Matt Willecome, Commercial Manager from 1st Choice

Accident Repair Centre, shared their experiences, having been involved in the ARIES Pilot Programme.

Wayne, who transitioned his business from PAS2060 to the new standard, emphasised the simplicity of the process and considerable cost savings to his business *“the information on the website and support from the auditors has made it really simple”*.

Matt started his Carbon Reduction journey with ARIES, *“it’s really caused us to focus on how we use carbon on site”*, striving for Carbon neutrality Matt confirmed, *“we’re in it for the long haul now”*.

The Q&A session was supported by the ARIES Governance Group, a team of experienced and passionate individuals from across the sector (Repairers, Insurers, Suppliers and Independent organisations), who volunteer their expertise and work collaboratively for the good of the industry, guiding and supporting the successful implementation and ongoing development of the Standard.

Further Webinars will be arranged periodically to keep you informed of ARIES progress and developments.

If you have any questions about the Webinar or ARIES Standard, please contact www.arieshub.co.uk/contact

1. How is ARIES different to PAS2060 and how does it relate to SBTi?

PAS2060 was a standard for carbon neutrality, ARIES is focused on a long-term net zero strategy.

Key differences are;

- ➔ PAS2060 had no reduction targets, Scope 3 was voluntary, there was no mandate for external verification, and it insisted on offsetting via the purchase of carbon credits.
- ➔ ARIES has reduction targets in line with Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), as such scope 3 will be introduced as appropriate and there is no mandate or requirement for offsetting.
- ➔ Therefore, there is no requirement for the Repairer to purchase carbon credits under the ARIES scheme. ARIES has different levels, when a Repairer hits level five, they will convert to a global framework of which SBTi could be considered.

2. Why should I adopt this ARIES standard, and how will it benefit my business?

There are many benefits of adopting the new standard including;

- ➔ **Commercial:** it will help protect your position as ARIES becomes an expected pathway across insurer/work-provider supported work.
- ➔ **Operational:** it's not just reporting, many actions reduce energy usage and operating cost as well as carbon.
- ➔ **Credibility:** it provides a structured, auditable evidence trail and a consistent benchmark, rather than ad-hoc ESG claims.
- ➔ **Futureproofing:** procurement and partner requirements increasingly expect this kind of evidence and verification.

Further benefits are referenced in slide 16 of the presentation.

3. If I need help on ARIES, where can I go for further support?

You can start with FREE resources that can be found within the Member area of the ARIES Hub: guidance, downloads, **templates** and **FAQ's**.

For further support use the ARIES **Help & Support** pages or get in touch using the **Contact Form**.

Where specialist support is needed (energy, measurement, reduction planning), ARIES signposts relevant partners/suppliers who can support delivery. Approved partners and suppliers may charge fees, and it is encouraged that repairers negotiate separately with any partner/supplier in providing tailored services.

4. What is Scope 1 and 2 and why does it not contain scope 3?

ARIES starts with Scope 1 & 2 because they are most measurable quickly and most directly influenced by the repairer; Scope 3 is introduced as maturity increases once a robust baseline and reduction plan is in place.

Scope 1	Direct emissions you control (e.g., gas burned onsite, fuel in company vehicles).
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Scope 2	Emissions from purchased electricity/energy you use.
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Scope 3	Wider value-chain emissions (parts manufacture, logistics, contractors, waste chain, etc.).
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5. Who are the auditors and are they qualified to a relevant standard?

ARIES is built around independent third-party verification and an annual audit/certification approach.

Auditors are appointed once the core submissions are made; Carbon Reduction Management Plan (CRMP) and Declaration of Achievement (DOA), rather than at the initial commitment stage.

Details of Auditors and third parties can be found on the supplier section of the ARIES Hub. The Governance Group are currently creating a selection process and criteria including appropriate qualifications for Auditors.

6. How does offsetting work, do I need to buy carbon credits?

Offsetting is primarily used to achieve or declare carbon neutrality, where a carbon footprint total of an entity is then offset by purchasing verified carbon credit supporting carbon reduction projects globally.

ARIES has no requirement for carbon credits, however, if a Repairer wishes to declare themselves carbon neutral, they can continue to purchase carbon credits.

7. Are any completed carbon management plans available to share?

We will create an example of a completed Carbon Reduction Management Plan (CRMP) and share it on the website to download. We will advise when this is available.

8. What is the expected take up within the industry?

We currently have 1,067 sites committed with 383 sites verified.

9. What is the cost of ARIES journey, how do I get help with funding?

There is currently no fee for Repairers to join ARIES, there are no offsetting costs.

There are two main considerations;

- ➔ Resource to collect data, complete templates, and update annually.
- ➔ Targeted investment in practical reduction measures (controls, efficiency upgrades, process improvements).

In many cases, early improvements pay back through reduced energy consumption and improved efficiency. Where support payments apply, the sensible approach is to ring-fence these as an improvement pot for measurement and reduction actions with clear evidence.

Repairers need to consult their work provider regarding payment, for Retail work you can add an ARIES fee to your estimate, in line with the ABP Retail Guide.

10. Which Insurance companies support this?

60-80% of the market currently support ARIES which is increasingly becoming a recognised pathway within the market. ARIES Insurer engagement and onboarding programmes are a key priority as raising standards requires industry collaboration to ensure sector-wide sustainability.

Insurers are supporting investment in ARIES with a contribution per job. ARIES will look to publish a Supporter/Collaboration list in the near future.

11. Have any VMs engaged with Aries?

Yes, numerous VM's have engaged, including Stellantis, Ford and more are being approached.

12. How long will it take me to create my base calculations for CO2 measurement?

If you have your bills/usage data to hand, a single site can usually pull together an initial Scope 1 & 2 baseline in a few hours (often 2–4 hours).

If you are a multi-site, have shared meters/landlord supply, or missing invoices, allow 1–2 weeks to gather and validate the data.

ARIES commitment is designed to be quick; the deeper work ramps up as you submit the Carbon Reduction Management Plan (CRMP) and Declaration of Achievement (DOA), and progress through the maturity levels in subsequent years.

13. What should I be spending ARIES payments I receive on, to achieve the best reduction in CO2?

Prioritise “measure first, reduce next, evidence always”.

Highest-impact areas for most Bodyshops are monitoring/controls, LED/building efficiency, compressed air optimisation, and booth/bake efficiency improvements. You should also consider waste/material handling improvements and paint mixing discipline where measurable.

Focus spends on actions that reduce emissions at source and can be evidenced (before/after bills, photos, specs, brief ROI note).

14. Is there a section on the website to download a certificate please?

This is currently in development and we will advise as soon as it is available to download.

15. How much will it cost for the independent verification audit?

Circa £350 to £750 dependant upon the auditor and the specific requirements of the audit, i.e. number of sites etc.

16. Can I use older data as we had solar installed in 2023, along with lighting upgrades and changed loan cars to EV?

Older data and initiatives previously implemented can be referenced in the Carbon Reduction Management Plan (CRMP) to demonstrate the progress already made.

17. Does the ARIES website have;

- ➔ **A list of approved consultants who can help bodyshops with ARIES?** Yes, please visit the Supplier section on the website [Aries Connect](#).
- ➔ **A list of ARIES “compliant” bodyshops?** The ‘all repairers report on the ARIES Hub details all repairers who have committed to ARIES and their current status. Visit [Repairer Report](#).

18. Will there be an increase in incentive payments higher up the maturity levels you go?

Not currently, but this may be reviewed at a later date.

19. At the beginning £15.00 per job was mentioned, how was the £15.00 calculated please? Also, which insurers have signed up to this figure as we’ve had some that haven’t accepted our request.

It felt a fair and sensible figure in line with PAS that everyone agreed with. We are compiling a definitive list of insurers which is growing on an ongoing basis.

20. If you have upgraded recovery trucks from 3.5t to 7.5t to cope with the extra weight of electric vehicles and already renewed the compressor, two big investments, how do (you) demonstrate reduction?

If you have calculated your footprint in the year prior to upgrading the compressor, then this would be reflected in reduced electricity consumption the following year.

If your first year of emissions (baseline) were calculated after the investment, then unfortunately there is no way to evidence this in your business's footprint. If you really wanted to 'know' you would have to manually calculate it (i.e. (old compressor kWh rating X runtime – New compressor kWh rating X runtime = kW Saving) .

The purchase of a larger recovery truck will not be classified as a 'carbon reduction' measure unless the change can clearly evidence significant reduction in fuel consumption (i.e. replacement with an electric or hydrogen recovery truck) or one that is somehow significantly going to reduce fuel consumption i.e. a transporter that can now take two vehicles at once, reducing the number of trips back to the Bodyshop, and subsequently, a significant reduction in fuel consumption associated with in-house recovery services.

A case study would have to be made for this to ensure that the investment has actually resulted in carbon reduction, which of course should be reflected in a reduction of Scope 1 emissions for vehicle fuel consumption. If this was a direct swap of a 3.5t diesel for a 7.5t diesel with no change to operations, it won't decrease emissions, and may even increase them, therefore it cannot be included as a 'verified investment', and should be rejected in an audit.

21. You said it was 90 days after registering to submit a Carbon Reduction Management Plan (CRMP), but you also mentioned the 90 days starts from 1st Jan? Can you explain please?

Any repairer who has registered prior to 31/12/25, has until the 31st of March 2026 (if using external expert) or 30th of April 2026 (to include external audit if completing data themselves) to submit their verified Carbon Reduction Management Plan (CRMP).

22. Will most bodyshops be able to justify the costs involved?

Yes, many actions can be implemented to improve the efficiency of the bodyshop which will reduce costs which could surpass / justify the investment / costs made.

The CRMP should detail a range of actions to reduce emissions and in many cases costs, covering:

- a) Process
- b) Purchasing
- c) Supply Chain Engagement
- d) Staff Engagement
- e) Equipment
- f) Infrastructure / Self-generation



Introduced in Summer 2025, ARIES (Automotive Repair Industry Environmental Standard) is the new framework created by the industry, for the industry, to provide a clear, standardised and transparent approach to carbon reduction.

ARIES aligns repairers with the SBTi framework and international standards, while supporting businesses in meeting increasing regulatory, commercial and consumer expectations.

Since launch, an estimated 67% of repairers* have already committed to ARIES. With PAS 2060 no longer delivering an accepted verified outcome beyond 2025. Supporting insurers are now

Visit the ARIES Hub for full guidance, resources and more information.

www.arieshub.co.uk

