

Overview

This standard is about the straightforward removal of dents and creases from motor vehicle flat panels using Paintless Dent Removal (PDR) techniques. It is also about checking the integrity of the panel prior to repair and the condition of the panel after the repair has been completed.

Note: For the purpose of this standard, drilling to gain access to effect a repair is not acceptable.

DRAFT

Performance criteria

- You must be able to:
- P1 use the appropriate personal protective equipment when carrying out PDR operations
 - P2 protect the vehicle and its contents effectively when carrying out PDR operations
 - P3 refer to appropriate sources of information when carrying out vehicle damage assessment and PDR operations
 - P4 identify where ADAS systems are present and may be affected by the damage and/or repair
 - P5 assess the area for repair to ensure that a repair can be effected to a safe and acceptable standard using PDR techniques without compromising the integrity of the vehicle
 - P6 identify additional distortion on a panel caused by a primary impact
 - P7 assess the potential access routes in order to carry out a PDR in a safe and appropriate manner without interference with ADAS system or sensors or high voltage components
 - P8 select and use the appropriate tools and equipment for the panel area to be repaired
 - P9 ensure that your tools and equipment are in a safe working condition
 - P10 carry out a PDR repair on motor vehicle flat panels, selecting the technique(s) most appropriate to the type, size and location of the damage and the material being worked on
 - P11 avoid damaging other components and units on the vehicle whilst carrying out the repair
 - P12 store all removed components safely in an appropriate location
 - P13 check that all relevant components and vehicle systems operate correctly following the manufacturer's specification after you have completed your repairs
 - P14 promptly report any potential or additional faults you find during or prior to the course of your work to the relevant person(s)
 - P15 promptly report any delays in completing your work to the relevant person(s)
 - P16 carry out your repair within the agreed timescale

-
- P17 promptly complete work records accurately, in the format required and pass them to the relevant person(s)
- P18 ensure that all areas used to gain access are treated for corrosion inhibition where appropriate

DRAFT

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the health, safety and legal requirements relating to the removal of cosmetic damage using PDR techniques
- K2 your workplace procedures for:
 - K2.1 the referral of problems
 - K2.2 reporting of delays to the completion of work
 - K2.3 completion of work records
 - K2.4 the use of personal protection
- K3 the hazards associated with working on or near high energy electrical vehicle components
- K4 how to assess the size, depth and plane of damage and recognise any additional damage
- K5 how to identify the best course of action to carry out a repair to the standard required
- K6 how the panel material affects the complexity of the repair
- K7 the action you need to take if the repair cannot be carried out to the required standard by using PDR techniques
- K8 the requirements for protecting the vehicle and contents from damage before, during and after repairing panels using PDR techniques
- K9 the requirements for protecting the vehicle being repaired from cross contamination including metallurgy and electrolysis
- K10 the importance of selecting, using and maintaining the appropriate personal protective equipment when repairing panels using PDR techniques
- K11 the importance of maintaining your tools in a safe working condition
- K12 how to find, interpret and use sources of information applicable to the safe repair of panels using PDR techniques
- K13 how to select, check and use all the tools and equipment required to assess and repair panels effectively using PDR techniques
- K14 the need for correct choice of tools to carry out a suitable repair and the methods used to achieve this
- K15 the different types of PDR techniques and methods used for repairing flat panels

- K16 how to use glue type pulling/repair systems
- K17 why drilling is not acceptable when carrying out a PDR repair
- K18 the faults that can occur when repairing panels using Paintless Dent Removal (PDR) techniques and the causes of these faults
- K19 the implications of affecting or damaging vehicle safety systems during the repair process and how this can be avoided
- K20 the types of quality control checks that can be used to ensure a correct repair has been achieved
- K21 the need for correct alignment of components and the methods used to achieve this
- K22 the types of quality checks that can be used to ensure correct alignment and operation of components to manufacturer's specification and their purpose
- K23 the importance of a robust handover procedure where ADAS systems are present

Do we need to add something about the term 'push to paint' or is that just in Cosmetic Repair?

Scope/range

- 1. PDR tools and equipment** include:
 - 1.1. specialist PDR tooling and accessories
 - 1.2. heating equipment
 - 1.3. reflection or line board
- 2. PDR techniques** include:
 - 2.1. Tensioning/de-tensioning
 - 2.2. pulling
 - 2.3. pushing
 - 2.4. striking

DRAFT

**Additional
Information****Glossary**

This section contains examples and explanations of some of the terms used but does not form part of the standard.

Acceptable Repair

The panel is returned to original condition without any visible sign that a repair has been carried out, as would meet the expectations of a customer.

Cosmetic vehicle damage

Non-structural damage to the bodywork of a vehicle that does not affect the car's safety or functionality but detracts from its appearance and can reduce its resale value.

Damage

Likely to be one point of impact per damage area, although there may be more than one area of damage.

Faults that can occur include...?

Do we need to give examples here?

Flat panel

A panel area that contains no swage line, body line or defining contours.

Note: The panel itself may contain convex curvature as part of the overall structure, such as, bonnet, door, roof etc.

Paintless Dent Removal (PDR)

PDR is a fast, cost-effective dent repair technique that retains the original paint finish. To achieve this, the paint surface of the damaged vehicle panel needs to be unbroken so the resulting repair will not need to be painted. However, PDR techniques may also be used to repair a panel in readiness for refinishing, rather than the panel being prepared using filler.

Developed by	IMI
Version number	3
Date approved	31 March 2026
Indicative review date	31 March 2031
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating organisation	IMI Ltd
Original URN	IMIPDRARC01
Relevant occupations	PDR Technician (Automotive); PDR Senior Technician (Automotive)
Suite	Accident Repair – SMART - PDR
Key words	Remove Dents Creases Motor Vehicle Flat Panels