December 2018/January 2019

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From the President

From the President

By Eben Shantz

Information Sharing

I hope everyone had a great time at the MATR/ATRI convention at U-Pic-A-Part, personally I thought it was fantastic and I can't thank Frank enough for opening his doors to the organizations for this. It had probably the largest trade show I have ever seen at a local state show. All the financials are still shaking out, but it's hard to think this won't work out favorably for both organizations, simple law of volume. There are already hints of a joint meeting again next year, so this may be a future path for us to take with other neighboring states.

Rubbing shoulders (and crying on them) with other recyclers is so important for many reasons. Nobody (and trust me, NOBODY) will understand more what it's like to own one of these business' than a fellow salvage yard owner. Our challenges are all variations on the same theme, so making ourselves open to and accept the way other people solve these is so important to our own growth. There are still some owners out there with the old paradigm that if someone else knows what they know, they will somehow use that information to take away their business. Thankfully, most of us have gotten past that thought pattern by the raw proof in our own lives. I would like to think that for each great piece of advice I got, I was able to reciprocate and help someone else, but the reality is we always receive more than we give back. So whenever we can and wherever possible, we need to spend our time being good "business stewards" by offering help and advice to other owners we come in contact with. There are fewer and fewer of us every year, and I think we all want us ALL to make it to the next year. One of the best lessons you can teach anyone is simply to be open to change. As I feel the drain of time on my body, I can tell you that by default I resist change



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ASSOCIATION NEWS

December 2018/January 2019

Getting the Most for Your Converters with a Process You Can Trust: Selling Basics and Advanced Principles

By Becky Berube, United Catalyst Corporation

For those of us who travel to conferences and trade shows with recyclers, it is one of the busiest times of the year. It is also the time when we get to do the most educational training sessions. Personally, if I could, I would travel all year educating recyclers on developing a profitable converter recycling program. We educate for two reason: First, so that you make the most money you can from selling your converters. Second, so that you cannot be taken advantage of when selling them.

Selling units in person or by software application.

Whether you sell by the unit in person or by application, the buyer normally turns around and sells the units on recovery by assay for a higher value. Oftentimes, a grading application cannot accurately predict the value of the load of converters will yield on assay. There is a significant potential margin of error with converter applications.

Selling units by bid or across-theboard pricing.

In our estimation this is like rolling the dice, sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. If your converters are of lower value than the price offered, you win; if your converters are of higher value, you lose. In most instances, like selling by the piece or bid, the converters are being turned around for a higher value on assay. Margin is left on the table.

No two converters the same.

If you were to take two converters coated on the same day for the same vehicle application, and you sold two identical cars to two neighbors who worked at the same plant each day, who's vehicles after 10 years were destroyed by the same flood, and test those two converters by assay, the converter values would not be the same. This is one of the main reasons to sell converters on assay. No two converters are the same.

Selling converters by assay.

There is only one way to recycle a scrap catalytic converter. Destroy it. Sample it. Refine it. Sell the Platinum, Palladium, and Rhodium. Simple in theory, but more complicated in practice. More involved, but more profitable IF you understand how it works.

Average Price Per Unit. Know your count.

Dismantle.

Each recycler believes they know the average price per unit that was sold. If you don't know your count before you sell and if you don't confirm your count with your processor, then you cannot know your true average. The price per unit can be manipulated in several ways by over or under estimating the units which skews the average.



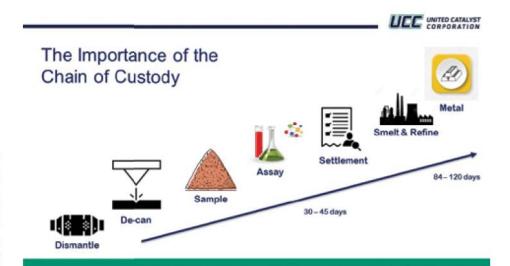
Average Price Per Pound and Pounds Per Unit. Mass balance all weights.

De-can. Mill.

When converters are destroyed by de-canning and milling the result is catalyst and dust. It is important that you, the customer, receive all the catalyst and dust. These two items become the gross weight of your load that will be sampled and paid for. There is also the steel from the cans and the packaging materials that need to be accounted for in a mass balance. All weights in to all weights after processing should roughly add up to 99.5 percent. A loss of no more than 0.5%.

Sample.

How a sample is collected is one key to determining the accuracy of an assay result. The sampling method should be verifiable and accurate. Moisture and inert material like insulation should be reasonable. The normal range for both is 1 - 3 percent. The weight before the moisture is determined is the net wet weight, after the moisture, is the net dry or settlement weight. Your price per pound can be manipulated. The less weight, the higher the average weight per pound. BUT, if you are missing weight, you are missing money. Track your average pounds per unit to check this. Late model yards might have an average weight per unit of 1.8 - 2.0 lbs. per unit;



other yards might have an average of 2.0 - 2.3 lbs.

Assay.

How your sample is assayed to determine the amount of metal contained is another key to proper settlement. The most reliable method for determining the precious metals contained in auto catalyst is fire assay combined with induction coupled plasma (ICP) spectroscopy and an atomic absorption (AA) digestion. It is not the norm to settle on x-ray fluorescent (XRF) analysis. The margin of error for this method can be plus or minus 10% in some instances.

Where the assay is performed and by whom is paramount to getting paid the most. For instance, you should know if the assay is performed at the processor's lab, the refiner's lab, or by an independent third-party lab. We prefer to settle with recycler's not on our lab analysis but on the "sample of record" at the end refiner or with an independent third-party lab. We consider the results at our lab to be quality control, not the final assay, for the final settlement.

Market prices.

Recently, I was asked about the spread on market prices between what is published and what is received on your invoice. There are several factors that affect the spread or discount we receive on market prices for metals. First, there is a discount for delivering industrial grade metal versus investment grade metal. Second, there is a discount for when metal will be delivered: today, 30, 60, 90, 120 days. The converters you recycle today will not be in metal form for at least 84 - 90 days. See diagram. This means we sell metal forward and that price is discounted. Locking in a metal price early carries a lease rate or discount. Taking money early carries a finance charge. These charges are typical in

Processes... continued on page 8

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December 2018/January 2019

Processes... continued from page 5

assay-based selling whether you see them or not. Finally, if the metal is in short supply at the refiner, the spread or discount is also higher because the refiner is being charged a higher lease rate to get metal. This has been the case for Palladium most recently.

In converter recycling, the best recyclers are partnering with companies that educate. At our company, we believe selling on assay with refining terms is the best way to recycle scrap catalytic converters. Learning the way assay and refining works and how to avoid unethical trading practices takes time, but if done properly with a reliable recycling partner, yields much greater value.

Get the most for your converters with a process you can trust. For questions or copies of this article or previous articles, go to www.unitedcatalystcorporation.com.







Get The Most for Your Converters With a Process You Can Trust. CALL US TODAY! 864-834-2003 Let's Talk Recalls . . .

Shredders, Self Service, & Scrap Auto Recyclers in the Spotlight

By Katie Stark & Paul D'Adamo

What do Shredders, Self Service and Scrap Yards have as an advantage in the removal of defective Takata airbags?

VOLUME • UNIT PRICING • VINTAGE

PROCESS • ROI

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Volume

Large Volume Auto Recycling Operations could have an intake of 3,000 to 30,000 whole "end-of-life" vehicles per year. That volume of vehicles translates into opportunity when it comes to the defective Takata airbags which can be reclaimed through RAS' buyback* program. With millions of airbags on recall, your volume provides the largest pool of vehicles to recover from.

Unit Pricing

Most Shredders, Self Service, & Scrap yards are buying in the sweet spot of average unit price of vehicles, at \$150-350. The lower your average unit pricing is, the better your ROI with recovering defective Takata airbags.

Vintage

Are most of your vehicles purchased in the 2000 – 2010 age range? If yes, you are in the sweet spot of



vintage for defective Takata airbags. There are currently 15 makes, 63 models and 15 years of coverage in the RAS buyback program, most are in the 2000-2010 range. Plus, we are always working to add additional makes and models.

Process - Time & Labor

All Shredders, Self Service, & Scrap yards have a documented, well-re-hearsed process to ensure that catalytic converters, aluminum wheels, fluids, gases, Mercury switches, batteries, lead weights, wire, and tires are removed efficiently at the lowest possible labor cost.

ROI

Based on volume, unit pricing, vintage, and process, opting into RAS' Airbag Recovery Program will enhance your Corporate Responsibility while returning a healthy revenue stream. It's a Win-Win.

Corporate Responsibility

Defined as a corporation's initiatives "to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on environmental and social wellbeing". Create an Airbag Recovery Program and establish your company as a responsible Corporate Leader in your Industry and Community. Automotive safety recalls are not going away.

Final Thought

Still not convinced? Is labor the issue? We have a labor solution that may work for you. Call Paul at 401-458-9080.

Questions? Call the Recall Team at 877-829-1553

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*Not all automakers participate in the RAS airbag buyback program.

Authors: Katie Stark and Paul D'Adamo Katie the "Recall Gal" and Paul the "Recall Guy" represent the RAS Recall Team. Their Mission is to rid the planet of defective Airbags.

Want to join the Mission? Call the RAS Recall Team 877-829-1553 Tell us about yourself, your company, and/or your employees!

We are interested in your story, the challenges you face, and the uniqueness of your company.

Email us and we can work together on a story.

Contact Sheila at newsletters@rjmc.com

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President... continued from cover

more and more with each passing year. For me, that means it's a constant battle of governing my kneejerk reaction with slowing down and taking the time to collect all the data and viewpoints before making a decision. That's where the other owners come in. Let's say you're really good with your hands but not so good with logistics, but hey, you know yard X has 6 delivery trucks and ships parts all over the US. Take the time to reach out to that owner and ask them how they do it, you never know, teaching that owner how to replace cam phasers in their 5.4L engines may be something they haven't been able to tackle because nobody could help them! There is a Facebook salvage yard owner's group that gets daily traffic

and a highly recommend you join, please reach out to me and I would be happy to get you added as this is a private group. Remember everyone, we're all in the together, and we all need each other to make this work!

As the days grow darker and most of us shift focus to expense control for the 4th quarter, I would encourage you to get those new employees, systems, processes, and everyone trained so you're ready for January. Success can come from anywhere and ANYONE around you, don't let those opportunities pass you by!

Eben Shantz - eben@modernim-ports.com



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