

From Our Perspective



Senate Committee's Report on Automated Vehicles Takes Note of Aftermarket Concerns

On January 29, 2018, the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications released its report, 'Driving Change: Technology and the Future of the Automated Vehicle', identifying regulatory and technical issues related to the deployment of automated and connected vehicles.

Both the Senate and the House of Commons have committees that undertake studies on issues that will have societal impacts. The findings from these studies inform and influence government policy, programs and legislation.

In 2016, Transport Canada requested that the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications undertake a study to explore how autonomous vehicle (AV) and connected vehicle (CV) technology would impact Canada and to identify the regulatory and technical issues associated with the deployment of this technology.

At the completion of their study, the Committee released a report putting forth sixteen recommendations to the Government of Canada on how to prepare for the arrival of this technology. The great news for the aftermarket – nine of the sixteen recommendations can be utilized by the aftermarket industry to advance its interests.

9 of the 16 recommendations from the report can be used to advance the interests of the aftermarket industry.

The aftermarket can capitalize on the recommendations related to access to vehicle data, consumer data privacy protection, cybersecurity and education and training. Fair aftermarket access to vehicle data is necessary for the aftermarket to offer its services. The issues of data privacy protection and cybersecurity will be used by automakers to argue for limited third party access to vehicle – therefore it is imperative that the aftermarket addresses these legitimate concerns. As vehicle technology advances, the skills of our workforce will need to change – education and training initiatives will support that change.

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Access to Data

- Government should ensure that the aftermarket has access to the data it needs to deliver its services.

Data Privacy Protection

- Government should empower the Office of the Privacy Commissioner to investigate and enforce industry handling of personal data (page 57).
- Government should continue to assess the need for privacy regulations to protect the privacy of Canadians in the era of AVs and CVs (page 58).
- Government, with industry stakeholders and consumers, should develop a CV framework with privacy protection as a key driver.
- Government should fund projects focused on privacy and cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity

- Government should develop cybersecurity guidance on original equipment, replacement parts and software updates (page 53).
- Government, with industry stakeholders, should address cybersecurity issues (page 54).

Education and Training

- Government should work with provinces and territories to strengthen retraining and skills upgrading (page 57).

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada should monitor the impact of automated and connected vehicle technology on competition between the various sectors of the automotive and mobility industries, in order to ensure that sectors such as the aftermarket and car rental companies continue to have access to the data they need to offer their services.

The Committee stresses that government must take action to prepare for the era of AVs and CVs – as their arrival is not a question of if but a question of when. The door is open for the aftermarket industry to advocate for its interests and needs in this new era.



Automotive Industries Association of Canada

180 Elgin Street, Suite 1400 | Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2K3 | Ph: (800) 808-2920 | Fax: (613) 728-6021 | info@aiacanada.com