

What is a “Grade A” part?

1. According to the Automotive Recycler’s Association (ARA) and the Collision Industry Electronic Commerce Association (CIECA) the definition for a GRADE A used body part has been agreed upon as a part that has less than or equal to 1.0 units of damage where a unit is defined as the surface area equal to the size of a credit card. Therefore, parts may have rust, dents or other damage in a combined area smaller than 1.0 unit and still be considered Grade A.
2. According to the ARA and CIECA, a three or five character code is to be used to describe any damage. An example of a code is 7R1 which means that in position 7 there is Rust of 1 credit card size unit. Another example is 5D0.5 which means that in position 5 there is a Dent of 0.5 unit size. For more information on damage codes and diagrams of part positions visit the ARA at www.A-R-A.org.
3. The code for a part with no damage at all is 000. Not all Grade A parts are 000. A part with 7R1 or 5D0.5 is still a Grade A part because the damage in either case is less than or equal to 1.0 unit of damage. A part with 7R2 or 5D1.5 would be a Grade B part since it would exceed 1.0 units of damage. Grade C parts exceed 2.0 units of damage. In units: 0.0 to 1.0 is Grade A, 1.1 to 2.0 is Grade B, 2.1 or more is Grade C. More damage is allowed for each grade on large assembly parts such as front clips, cabs, pick up boxes, and rear clips.
4. A unit of damage defined as a credit card size area is not subjective the way an “hour” of damage is. Different skill levels and opinions among technicians and different types of damage can take more or less time to repair so using the word “hours” to describe damage on recycled parts is discouraged. Units of credit card size are certain and lead to less confusion in descriptions. A single unit of damage may take some shops more or less than one hour to repair but the size of the damaged area will not be in question.
5. For more information visit the Automotive Recyclers Association website at www.A-R-A.org, visit www.CIECA.com, or contact your estimating software provider.