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John Nielsen, CMAT, L-1



Nielsen joined the AAA executive management team in 1998 as national director of the Approved Auto Repair network. Under his watch, the repair network – consisting of both dealer franchise and independent repair shops - has grown from 3,100 to more than 8,000 facilities located throughout North America with recent expansion into Auto Body Repair and the Automotive Glass Business. Building on that success, responsibilities for consumer information and automotive buying services were added to his duties in 2002. In this role, he provides strategic vision and direction to the federation's 38 member clubs with the goal of providing for the lifelong automotive needs of AAA's 56 million members.

Nielsen has more than 25 years of experience in the automotive industry. Starting as an automotive technician in 1979, he went on to run the operations of Johnny Rutherford Corporation and later served as a technical service engineer and manager of technical services for Champion Spark Plug Company. He has held an ASE Master Automotive Technician certification, authored the book "Making Sense of Car Care", serves as Editor in Chief of AAA's new car and truck reviews, has given testimony to the state and national legislatures and is a regular guest on radio and TV shows throughout the country.