Selling Recycled High-Voltage Battery Packs

Introduction:

Determining a High-Voltage (HV) battery's condition presents a challenge to any recycling operation wishing to move beyond just sending HV battery packs off to rebuilders as cores or to a recycling operation. HEV/EV battery packs pose an eco-hazard unless disposed of properly but also pose a great profit potential if qualified for resale as a used replacement battery. HV battery packs can tell a story! Retrieving and recording Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTCs) from all the modules on the vehicle prior to disconnecting the HEV's auxiliary 12-volt battery is very advantageous if the vehicle's condition has allowed the 12-volt battery to stay connected and charged. Note - this process is for fully trained technicians who have the appropriate tools, PPE, manufacturer advice, and information. Untrained and uncertified staff should not be involved with this type of operation.

Discussion Points:

- HEV/EV battery packs pose an eco-hazard unless disposed of properly
- Retrieving and recording Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTCs) from all the modules on the vehicle prior to disconnecting the HEV's auxiliary 12-volt battery
- Assessing the battery pack's condition
- Loss of electronic data
- Using appropriate tools and PPE

Discussion:

More HV Battery Info = More Profits

Always keep in mind which pieces of information can be obtained from the last known owner of the vehicle, along with the access of electronic data stored in various electronic modules. This will allow for a more accurate assessment with regard to whether the HV battery pack is in good enough condition to be resold, sent to a HV battery refurbishing company, or to a HV battery recycling operation.

Obviously, in the case of a salvaged vehicle involved in severe collisions where first responders or vehicle recovery crews have cut or removed the 12-volt battery cable, all electronic data will typically be lost forever.

As always, stay safe out there!