

## California Employer Brief

<b>Title</b>	<b><i>Maita Nissan Service Manager Interview</i></b>
<b>Employer</b>	Maita Nissan
<b>Interviewee</b>	Jon Smith, Service Manager
<b>Meeting Type</b>	On-site visit
<b>Date and Time</b>	3/15/2011: 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
<b>Location</b>	Sacramento, CA
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://maitanissan.com">maitanissan.com</a>
<b>Purpose</b>	Learn training requirements for Nissan Technicians who work on the electric Leaf vehicle.
<b>Summary</b>	<p>West Coast Nissan technician training is conducted in Livermore, CA. The Leaf technician training program is four days long. Nissan workers must first become certified electric vehicle (EV) technicians and pass a series of online and classroom training programs. Completion of this training certifies them as Master Technicians, which qualifies employees for Leaf training. As technology advances, EV techs continue to upgrade skills with new online or classroom training programs as they become available. The technicians must complete courses within a specified time frame in order to maintain their Master Tech credentials. These credentials or job titles are not transferrable between different auto manufacturers; they are manufacturer-specific training related certificates.</p> <p>Because the Leaf is an electric vehicle, the technicians must also be electrical specialists. An onsite EV certified tech upgraded his skills by successfully completing the American River College automotive program.</p> <p>There is a strong emphasis on safety during the Nissan Leaf Electric Vehicle training due to the very high voltage generated by the battery. This is critical to keep technicians out of harm. Although there is no engine in the Leaf, servicing one is similar to a conventional car (e.g., brakes, fluids, radiator, air conditioning, air filters). In addition to safety, the tasks, knowledge, skills, and abilities for Leaf Techs focus on how to properly assemble and disassemble the battery and the vehicle's software. Therefore, technicians need to have computer skills in order to work on the EVs. Although the presence of computers in automobiles is not new, the way in which they are used in the Leaf is a little different. The Leaf is run by one computer. When serviced, the Leaf is connected to a laptop allowing the car to be re-programmed or uploaded with new software. Computer training is ongoing, and is also mandatory for Master Technicians.</p> <p>When service shops become certified to repair the Leaf, they are provided with a specialty tool drawer. The drawer includes insulated hand tools (e.g., screwdrivers, pliers) to protect technicians from electrocution.</p>
<b>Green Occupations Cited</b>	Alternative Fuel Technician – Nissan Leaf
<b>Green Industries Cited</b>	Electric Vehicles
<b>Interviewers</b>	Angel Rodriguez and Michael Vela/LMID
<b>Contact</b>	Angel.Rodriguez@edd.ca.gov



**NOTE: Permission was obtained by the employer to publish this information.**

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