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## ALUMINUM NEWS

### J.D. Power Ranks Aluminum-Friendly Jaguar, Buick Most Dependable Vehicles of 2009

Jaguar and Buick share more than just their top rank in J.D. Power and Associates' [2009 Vehicle Dependability Study](#), both automotive brands currently produce models with numerous [aluminum components](#).

From Jaguar's use of aluminum-intensive structures and body panels to Buick's hoods and engine blocks, aluminum components are playing a major role in making each the most reliable brand by creating stronger, safer, better-performing vehicles through its lightweight capabilities.



### BMW Puts Aluminum to Work in '09 Models

An [article](#) in this month's Ward's AutoWorld features [BMW's extensive and innovative use of automotive aluminum](#) resulting in an average of 421 pounds of the lightweight metal per vehicle for the 2009 model lineup. Aluminum components are two-thirds the weight of their steel counterparts. BMW engineers take advantage of its lightweight capabilities to help maintain the automaker's signature 50/50 front-to-rear weight ratio for maximized vehicle performance.

### Aluminum Industry: Weight Reduction Critical to Meeting CAFE Regs



The Obama Administration recently announced the new Corporate Average Fuel Economy regulations for passenger vehicles, raising standards to 27.3 miles per gallon by 2011. The [ALTG released a statement](#) expressing

the aluminum industry's support of the new regulations, but feels the administration failed to recognize the benefits of secondary weight savings; stating that powertrain advances and weight reduction are crucial to meeting these standards and the advantages aluminum can offer will help attain [safer](#) and more [fuel-efficient](#) vehicles.

### Mazda's Light Way is the SmartWay

The Environmental Protection Agency recently designated the [2010 Mazda3 a SmartWay vehicle](#), certifying it as one of the best environmental performers among light duty vehicles. Featuring an aluminum engine block and head construction, the 2010 manual transmission model achieves 33 mpg on the highway - a 10 percent increase from the 2009 model. In addition, [Mazda recently announced weight reduction plans](#) for new models after 2011. Future vehicles will cut weight by more than 220 pounds in order to increase fuel economy by 30 percent. Research shows swapping out heavier materials for [aluminum yields a 5 to 7 percent increase in fuel savings](#) for every 10 percent reduction in weight.

### Award-winning 2009 Chevrolet Malibu Also High in Aluminum Content

The [2009 Chevy Malibu](#), one of the [top selling automobiles in March](#), is [high in aluminum content](#) with the material making up at least 10 percent of its overall curb weight. Lightweight and durable, both the front and rear suspensions feature aluminum control arms for reduced weight and improved handling. The vehicle also features an aluminum engine and wheels to help increase fuel efficiency and lower emissions.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SAE World Congress**  
**Society of Automotive Engineers**  
April 20-23, 2009  
Detroit, MI

**Automotive News Manufacturing Conference**  
**Automotive News**  
June 8-10, 2009  
Birmingham, AL



## FAST FACTS

**Aluminum Use at All-Time High and Continuing to Grow**  
A [recent study](#) released by the ALTG confirms that [automotive aluminum use is at its highest-ever](#) worldwide rate and automakers are continuing to recognize its value.

- In 2009 North American vehicles, automotive aluminum is at 8.6 percent of average curb weight, an all-time high, with projections of 11 percent by 2020.
- More than [140 vehicles produced worldwide contain over 10 percent or 400 pounds aluminum](#) content, including [six out of the ten best selling vehicles](#) in March 2009.
- Automotive aluminum growth is predicted to grow four-to-five pounds per vehicle, per year, and approach 300 pounds per vehicle worldwide by 2020.