

WHAT IS THE SMOG CHECK PROGRAM?

The Smog Check Program is a vehicle inspection and maintenance program designed to improve the air we breathe. The program identifies vehicles with excess emissions so they can be properly repaired or retired. It has greatly reduced air pollution created by millions of cars in California.

WHO OVERSEES THE PROGRAM?

The California Department of Consumer Affairs' Bureau of Automotive Repair administers the Smog Check Program and licenses more than 7,000 independently owned Smog Check stations.

WHAT VEHICLES REQUIRE A SMOG CHECK?

- Gasoline-powered vehicles, hybrid vehicles, and alternative-fuel vehicles that are model-year 1976 and newer require a Smog Check, with the following exceptions:

- 1 Eight model years and newer do not require a biennial Smog Check.
- 2 Four model years and newer do not require a change-of-ownership Smog Check.

To determine the first year a vehicle requires a biennial or change-of-ownership Smog Check, add eight or four, respectively, to the model year of a vehicle.

For example, a 2020 model-year vehicle will first be subject to a biennial Smog Check in 2028 (2020 + 8 = 2028). That same vehicle will require a change-of-ownership Smog Check if sold in or after 2024 (2020 + 4 = 2024).

- Diesel-powered vehicles that are model-year 1998 and newer with a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds and less require a Smog Check. There are no model year exceptions for diesel-powered vehicles.
- Motorcycles and electric-powered vehicles do not require a Smog Check.

THE BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR IS HERE TO HELP.

FIND A STATION

Need a Smog Check or emission-related repairs? Find a licensed station near you by using our online license search.

REPAIR ASSISTANCE

Failed a Smog Check? You may qualify for financial assistance toward certain emission-related repairs for your vehicle.

VEHICLE RETIREMENT

Vehicle not worth repairing? You could receive a financial incentive to retire your vehicle.

COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

Problem with an automotive repair dealer or Smog Check station? One of our field representatives will work with you and the licensee to try and resolve the issue.

REFEREE CENTERS

Trouble passing a Smog Check? State Referees can assist you with inspections of unusual vehicles and locating hard-to-find emission parts.

To learn more, visit www.bar.ca.gov or call **(800) 952-5210**.



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CALIFORNIA SMOG CHECK PROGRAM



WHEN IS A SMOG CHECK REQUIRED?

A Smog Check is required every other year (biennially) as part of the vehicle registration process. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) registration renewal notice will indicate if a Smog Check is required. A Smog Check is also required when a vehicle changes ownership or when it is registered for the first time in California.



HOW CAN I FIND A SMOG CHECK STATION IN MY AREA?

Smog Check stations are licensed to perform tests and/or repairs. The station is required to post a sign indicating the services it is licensed to perform.

To find a station in your area, visit www.bar.ca.gov or call (800) 952-5210.

WHAT IS A STAR STATION?

STAR stations meet performance standards established by the Bureau of Automotive Repair. Your DMV registration renewal notice will indicate whether your vehicle requires a Smog Check at a STAR station.

DO I NEED TO TAKE ANYTHING WITH ME TO THE SMOG CHECK STATION?

If your DMV registration renewal notice indicates a Smog Check is required, remember to take the notice with you. This will help ensure that the correct vehicle information and Smog Check certificate are electronically sent to DMV.

HOW MUCH DOES A SMOG CHECK COST?

The Bureau of Automotive Repair does not regulate prices, but recommends that you shop around and compare prices at several different stations before taking your vehicle in for its Smog Check.

HOW CAN I HELP MY VEHICLE PASS A SMOG CHECK?

Performing regular maintenance according to your owner's manual and not tampering with the emissions-control equipment will help improve your vehicle's chances of passing a Smog Check. If the "Check Engine" light comes on, get your vehicle repaired as soon as possible—do not wait for the vehicle's next scheduled Smog Check. A blinking or flashing light indicates a malfunction that should be addressed immediately to avoid serious damage to the vehicle. Check your owner's manual for any parts or repairs that may be covered under your vehicle manufacturer's emissions warranty.

WHAT IF MY VEHICLE FAILS A SMOG CHECK?

The Smog Check station will provide you with a Vehicle Inspection Report that shows your vehicle's results and the reason(s) for the failure. If you have questions, ask the station to explain the information on the report. Any needed repairs should be performed by a station licensed to perform Smog Check repairs. After completing the repairs, have your vehicle retested. The station will provide you a final report once your vehicle passes Smog Check and will electronically send the certificate to DMV.

WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE WITH THE SMOG CHECK RESULTS?

If you would like a second opinion on Smog Check results, you may schedule an appointment with a state Referee by calling (800) 622-7733 or by visiting www.asktheref.org.

ARE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO HELP IF MY VEHICLE FAILS A SMOG CHECK?

Yes. The Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) offers both repair assistance and vehicle retirement options to consumers whose vehicles fail a Smog Check.

- **Repair Assistance**—Financial assistance toward certain emission-related repairs is available to income-eligible consumers whose vehicles fail a biennial Smog Check. The repairs must be performed at a STAR station under contract with the state to perform this service.
- **Vehicle Retirement**—Eligible consumers can receive a financial incentive to retire a vehicle from operation rather than repair it. The vehicle must be retired at a state-approved dismantler.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR CAP?

Apply online at www.bar.ca.gov or call (800) 952-5210 to request an application.

CLEAN AIR