
SMOG CHECK PROGRAM UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS



Bureau of Automotive Repair

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ENGINEERING & RESEARCH BRANCH
BAR ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
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BAR-97 DIALUP TO IP ROLLOUT

- Regulations adopted on 8/2/2018.
- Internet connection software Beta started on 10/13/2017.
- First vendor's software certified on 1/25/2018.
- Q&As published.
- Multiple ET Blasts sent.
- Dialup analyzers locked from performing inspections on 11/1/2018.
- Analyzers still VID-connected until late January to support certificate inventory synchronization.
- Currently over 4,000 analyzers using Internet connection.

OBD DEFEAT DEVICES

- BAR ET Blast - April 4, 2018
- BAR is taking aggressive action against stations using OBD defeat devices.
 - BAR conducts statewide inspections targeting use of OBD defeat devices
 - BAR has initiated over 400 admin/criminal cases
 - Working with District Attorneys to secure search warrants and seize devices
 - BAR continues certificate blocking and Referee direction for inspections showing irregular data

OBD DEFEAT DEVICES (CONTINUED)

- Simple simulators are stand-alone devices that mimic a vehicle's OBD data.
- Pass-through devices alter a failing vehicle's OBD data.
- Both allow vehicles that would otherwise fail an inspection to pass instead.

ADDRESSING OBD FRAUD

- Certificate blocking
- Referee direction
- Administrative actions
- Criminal prosecution

CERTIFICATE BLOCKING AUTHORITY

- Health and Safety Code Section 44036(b)(3)(K) authorizes BAR to develop:

A real-time computer data program that prevents a certificate of compliance from being issued if a vehicle is identified as having an excessive variance from computer data for that vehicle, mismatched information, or other irregularities.

IMPACT OF CERTIFICATE BLOCKING

- 1,557 vehicles directed to the Referee in the last 30 days.
- Over 14,000 vehicles directed since January 2018.
- About half of the directed vehicles eventually get tested by the Referee.
 - Others likely retired, moved out of state, operating unregistered, improperly registered

BAR-OIS UPDATE PLANS

- New Data Acquisition Device (DAD)
 - Enhanced data collection ability to better detect fraud where surrogate vehicle or electronic data simulator used.
 - Embedded GPS to identify DAD location.
- Webcam
 - Prompts user to “video chat” with BAR/Referee when irregularity (potential fraud) detected.

BAR-OIS UPDATE PLANS (CONTINUED)

- Biometric Device
 - Finger vein scanner used in addition to password.
 - Positively identifies user performing Smog Check inspection.
 - Positive user identification necessary for criminal prosecution.
 - Enhanced capabilities could help ensure inspectors that actually took an exam are the ones performing the inspection.

2017 SPECIFICATION UPDATE FOR BAR-97

- BAR testing software updates that will make analyzers fully compliant with 2017 specification.
- Software installation in all analyzers planned for March 20, 2019.
- Update captures LPFET data through the analyzer.
 - After statewide installation, BAR will update LPFET hardware, so phone line is no longer needed.
 - BAR will disable offline testing after 2017 software installed.
- ET Blasts on cutover schedule coming soon.

FUTURE BAR-97 UPDATE PLANS

- Certificate blocking similar to BAR-OIS.
 - Fraud detected, BAR prevents issuance of certificate and marks vehicle for Referee inspection.
- Biometric Device
 - Finger vein scanner used in addition to password.

PERMANENT DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODES

- BAG presentation and workshop on April 19, 2018.
- Planning to incorporate into Smog Check Program in Summer 2019.
- BAR working with ARB to ID vehicles with OBD data not meeting SAE specification and to get vehicle computers reflashed to correct errors.
- ET Blasts on implementation schedule coming soon.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Submit questions and/or comments to:

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