

NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE**
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BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR OBTAINS INTERIM SUSPENSION ORDER AGAINST LOS ANGELES SMOG CHECK STATION

Cali Smogs accused of multiple counts of “clean piping”

LOS ANGELES – A Los Angeles Smog Check station accused of illegal “clean piping” has had its license suspended pending a revocation hearing as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR).

On February 10, 2011, an Administrative Law Judge granted BAR’s request to immediately suspend the license of Cali Smogs, 5657 York Blvd., Unit B in Los Angeles, and the license of Smog Check technician Luis Jimenez.

In September 2010, BAR opened an investigation against Cali Smogs and owner Rene Jose Rodriguez, Jr. The investigation revealed multiple instances of “clean piping.” It also revealed that Rodriguez employed an individual who performed Smog Check inspections even though he was not licensed by BAR.

“Clean piping” is when a vehicle, that would not pass a Smog Check inspection on its own, is fraudulently inspected and certified as passing. In most instances, a technician or other individual uses a clean exhaust sample from another vehicle that will pass a Smog Check while entering data for the vehicle for which the Smog Check is required.

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As a result of the unlicensed individual performing inspections, BAR disabled the station's Smog Check analyzer in November 2010 until investigators could speak with owner Rodriguez. BAR was unsuccessful in contacting Rodriguez and Jimenez.

BAR sought the Interim Suspension Order to prevent Rodriguez from being able to open a new station and Jimenez from being able to work as a licensed Smog Check technician while BAR proceeds with its enforcement case.

BAR is seeking to permanently revoke the Smog Check station license for Cali Smogs and the Smog technician license for Jimenez. An administrative hearing will be held at a later date to address the violations found during the investigation.

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