



SMOG CHECK ADVISORY

Official Publication of the California Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair

March 1999

Purchase by April 15!

DATE REVISED FOR FUEL CAP TESTING IN NON-ENHANCED AREAS: JULY 1

The dates for the beginning of fuel cap testing in non-enhanced areas have been revised, according to Leon Vann, Jr., BAR's Chief of Engineering and Operations.

"The consensus among auto repair industry leaders and equipment manufacturers is that shops that purchase their fuel cap testing equipment on or before April 15, 1999, are assured software installation by the manufacturers in time to meet a July 1, 1999, start date," Vann said.

After a meeting with industry representatives and equipment manufacturers, it has been confirmed that July 1, 1999, will be the implementation date for gas cap testing in all non-enhanced areas of the state, Vann added.

Here are the specific commitments the manufacturers are making to their respective customers, as outlined in letters to BAR:

SPX (formerly Bear and Allen): "SPX has committed to having our customers

up and running by July 1, 1999, if shop owners purchase and take delivery of the gas cap tester update kits by April 15, 1999."

Snap-On/Sun: "Every effort will be made to provide customers with all necessary updates in order for them to be able to continue performing BAR-90 ET tests as long as they place an order with EquiServe on or before April 15, 1999. The closer to July 1st an order is placed, the more probable a disruption in a testing facility's ability to continue testing vehicles will become."

ESP: "ESP will have installed and operational all updates/testers on our affected BAR-90 units by the July 1, 1999, date on all orders which have been placed and have been funded on or before April 15, 1999."

Vann added that stations not having the update kit installed by July 1, 1999, will be locked out from performing smog inspections.

After the software is installed in the Test Analyzer System (TAS), the next smog check sent to the Vehicle Information Database (VID) will demonstrate to BAR that the installation has been completed. If shops fail to send a test record created with fuel cap software, they will automatically be locked out on July 1, 1999. Once BAR representatives are notified that installation has been completed, the lockout will be removed.

The fuel cap testing software, which is Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant, is designed to collect necessary data indicating the quantity of fuel cap emissions being reduced, said Mark Issacs in BAR's Engineering Unit.

Issacs said it is in everyone's best interest to collect the data that measures the fuel cap program's success, which could be significant.

"We have to quantify all our gains," he said. ❖

Performance-Based Program to Inspect Smog Check Stations Underway

As part of the new Smog Check program, a performance-based station inspection program is now underway statewide, according to Mike Vanderlaan, BAR's Smog Check Enforcement Manager.

"We've overhauled our prior quality assurance program to include more than just an inspection of the station's required equipment," Vanderlaan said. "We're using all the technology and tools available to us to develop a process that will be used in the future to evaluate the quality of the diagnosis and repairs being done."

Moreover, instead of a third-party contractor, Smog Check field staff will now perform the inspection functions.

The new performance-based program takes a more comprehensive approach to evaluate each station's level of compliance with Smog Check program requirements. Its focus will be to evaluate the testing and repair performance of each station and licensed technician.

One of the tools that will be used during the performance evaluations will be real-time data from the Vehicle

Information Database (VID), which will establish a baseline of performance practices at each station.

"Stations with questionable performance may be required to have a technician perform a practical, hands-on test as part of the new performance inspection criteria," Vanderlaan explained.

For example, if the station technician is unable to demonstrate the knowledge and proper use of the station's diagnostic and repair equipment, or if the technician

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SNAPSHOT

Below are the Smog Check testing statistics for December 1998 and January 1999. The numbers include both ASM and Two-Speed Idle (TSI) testing and the number of certificates issued for all tests.

	DECEMBER	JANUARY
Program Volume		
Tests Conducted	818,679 *	942,305 *
Vehicles Tested	659,642	747,885
Vehicles Failed	66,341	59,812
Certificates Issued	696,180	802,909
Type of Failure		
Tailpipe:	36,512 (5.5%)	45,069 (6.0%)
Gross Polluters	15,045 (2.2%) **	12,730 (1.7%) **
Visual	12,887 (2.0%)	10,841 (1.4%)
Functional	29,444 (4.5%)	27,274 (3.6%)
Failure by Station Type		
Test & Repair	30,662 (7.9%)	22,512 (5.2%)
GSGR	15,045 (10.2%)	11,127 (6.6%)
GPC	5,079 (9.0%)	5,151 (8.0%)
Test-Only	15,503 (27.6%)	21,014 (27.2%)
Other (fleets)	17 (4.5%)	8 (2.3%)
Consumer Assistance/Referee Centers		
Tests	1,706	1,417
Failures	923 (54.2%)	805 (56.8%)
Gross Polluter Tests	29	30
Gross Polluter Failures	5 (17.2%)	12 (40.0%)
Certificates Issued	1,072	850
Cost Waivers Issued	106	85
Hardship Extensions Issued	195	167
Average Reported Repair Costs		
Vehicles Repaired	53,477	57,917
Average Cost (statewide)	\$ 93	\$ 95
Test & Repair Stations	\$ 85	\$ 86
GSGR Stations	\$ 96	\$ 99
GPC Stations	\$133	\$138

* Includes multiple tests on same vehicle.

** Subset of tailpipe failures.

ISSUES & ANSWERS

The Issues & Answers column allows readers to ask questions about topics that are of general interest to the auto repair industry and the Smog Check program. Answers to your questions will be researched and published here. Submit your questions to:

Smog Check Advisory
P.O. Box 188978
Sacramento, CA 95818

All questions must be accompanied by a name, address, and telephone number and will be verified before publication. Questions will be answered and published on a space-available basis. —Editor

Q. A vehicle fails a smog inspection at my shop, and I diagnose the cause (a burnt exhaust valve). I advise the customer of the repair estimate. However, the customer refuses the repair and requests I install a catalytic converter instead (so the vehicle can pass an emissions test). How do I document this on my repair order so I won't have repercussions?

—submitted via e-mail by
Myron Maurseth, San Marcos

A. There are several options that stations can take in this situation, including these:

- Encouraging the customer to repair the burnt exhaust valve.
- Explaining to the customer the potential safety and performance problems with replacing the converter and not the burnt valve.
- Refusing to replace the catalytic converter.

However, if stations choose to proceed with replacing the catalytic converter at the customer's request, the technician should indicate on the work order that the customer refused to authorize the recommended service and instead requested that the station replace the converter. ❖

Smog Check Advisory Corrections

Dates for the review, comment period, and public hearing for the Gold Shield Performance Standards were incorrectly published on the Calendar of Coming Events in the February edition of the *Smog Check Advisory*. The dates were tentative and set for planning purposes only. They were not actual filing, review, or hearing dates. At press time, the Notice of Proposed Action on the regulations had not yet been filed with the Office of

Administrative Law, and, as a result, the 45-day comment period and the public hearing have not been scheduled.

Also in the February edition of the *Smog Check Advisory*, our story on the Welfare to Work program incorrectly gave Yuba County credit for enrolling the first participant. In fact, Sutter County is leading the State and was the first county to recruit participants to the program. ❖

Governor Appoints New Director of Consumer Affairs

Kathleen Hamilton, 49, a former public policy advisor in the areas of labor, consumer protection, health care, and women's and children's issues, was recently named Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs by Governor Gray Davis.

A Sacramento Democrat, Hamilton has served in numerous policy positions, including deputy chief of staff and senior advisor to Davis when he was Lieutenant Governor, director of the California Health Facilities Financing Authority under former State Treasurer Kathleen Brown, and chief consultant to then-Assembly Majority Leader Antonio Villaraigosa.

Earlier she served in staff positions in both the Assembly and the Senate and worked on key issues such as automotive lender laws and comparable worth.

While serving as the leader of the Health Facilities Financing Authority, Hamilton



*Kathleen Hamilton
DCA Director*

established the "CARE" task force to ensure that publicly financed health facilities complied with public accessibility obligations.

"The auto repair market is important to consumers, and I look forward to working on the issues with all concerned," she said.

Her appointment is subject to confirmation by the California Senate.

Congratulations and welcome, Kathleen! ❖

THE BOTTOM LINE

- 108** Cut score on the current smog exam.
- 73.97** Percent of technicians passed EA Smog Check exam in January 1999.
- 9,530** Technicians completed BAR-97 8-hour Transition Training.
- 4,842** Technicians completed the BAR-97 20-Hour Update Training (of approximately 8,700 EA technicians who will need it by June 30, 2000).
- 8,712** Advanced (EA) technicians (Enhanced Area) licensed as of January 7, 1999.
- 4,394** Basic (EB) Area technicians licensed as of January 7, 1999.
- 4,888** *Test & Repair Stations* (as of February 1, 1999).
- 2,710** *Gold Shield Guaranteed Repair (GSGR) stations* (as of February 1, 1999).
- 235** *Test-Only stations (350 lanes)* (as of February 1, 1999).



New Licensing Rules Cancel Delinquent Registrations

Recent legislation, effective January 1, 1999, gives BAR the authority to cancel auto repair dealer registrations that have been delinquent more than three years.

In addition, if the registration is canceled because of delinquency, and the registrant wants to continue in the auto repair business, he or she must apply for a new registration, meet current registration requirements, and pay applicable fees.

Expired registrations that are renewed within three years are also subject to all accrued renewal and delinquency fees.

Station owners are also reminded that operating an auto repair facility with an expired registration is illegal and may result in administrative disciplinary action and possible criminal action. ❖

Auto Repair for the 21st Century Subject of Auto Repair Meetings

All technicians, shop owners, and other interested parties are invited to attend any of five statewide general meetings BAR has scheduled to discuss the future of the auto repair industry in March and April (see calendar, page 5).

"These meetings are part of a continuing effort to address issues facing the auto repair industry, many of which were identified during our national Automotive Repair Leadership 2000 conference in Anaheim last September," said BAR Chief Marty Keller. "We want all members of the industry to participate and help develop methods to recruit a new generation of technicians into auto repair."

The meetings will be a follow-up to the briefings with industry representatives held last spring after the findings of the BAR Program Review, concluded in January 1998. They will also serve as

another opportunity for auto repair industry members to communicate and work collectively.

Keller added that as many as 60,000 technicians will be needed to meet the demand to work on high-technology vehicles in the next several years.

The meetings will include presentations from BAR Smog Check and Consumer Protection Operations Enforcement teams, as well as an industry leadership presentation. After the presentations, participants will discuss goals and develop action plans.

"We sincerely hope there will be auto repair shop owners and technicians with lots of ideas to share at all these meetings," he said. "We need everyone's help."

RSVPs to attend the meetings are not required. ❖

SMOG CHECK STATION CITATIONS

Facility Name	Address	City	ZIP	Level	ARD Number	Citation Number	Assess Amount	Assess Date	Date Mailed
Express Automotive Service	611 23rd Street	Richmond	94804	1	AE147167	C99-0071	\$250.00	9/21/98	9/3/98
Center Smog Check & Auto	291 Iowa Avenue	Riverside	92507	1	AM192240	C99-0073	\$250.00	9/21/98	9/3/98
Unocal 76 Smog Station	2735 Del Rosa Avenue	San Bernardino	92404	1	AH162290	C99-0075	\$250.00	10/5/98	9/3/98
Express Lube	850 West Redlands Blvd.	Redlands	92373	3	AL186296	C99-0077	\$1,500.00	10/13/98	9/3/98
T & S Auto Repair	8959 Mission Blvd.	Riverside	92509	1	AC145959	C99-0079	\$250.00	10/15/98	9/3/98
East Highland Auto Tech	3708 East Highland Avenue	Highland	92346	1	AC177308	C99-0081	\$250.00	9/28/98	9/3/98
Smog N Tune	4335 East Gage Avenue	Bell	90201	1	AJ180388	C99-0083	\$250.00	11/6/98	9/15/98
City Smog & Auto Repair	3652 University Avenue	San Diego	92104	1	AA187316	C99-0085	\$250.00	10/13/98	9/15/98
Kim's Auto Service	21710 South Western Avenue	Torrance	90501	1	AH169241	C99-0086	\$250.00	11/13/98	9/15/98
A-One Automotive	154 South Waterman Avenue	San Bernardino	92408	1	AA186924	C99-0088	\$250.00	10/14/98	9/24/98
Direct Auto Service	4600 San Fernando Road	Glendale	91204	1	AF063625	C99-0090	\$250.00	10/26/98	9/24/98
Advanced Automotive & Diagnosis	3750 Daly Street	Riverside	92509	3	AA197789	C99-0092	\$1,500.00	11/5/98	9/24/98
Allen Smog	1015 San Fernando Blvd.	Burbank	91502	3	AH168334	C99-0093	\$1,500.00	11/3/98	9/24/98
Zeid's Smog & Auto Repair	11685 Saticoy Street	North Hollywood	91605	2	AB165005	C99-0097	\$750.00	12/8/98	9/24/98
Precision Auto Repair & Smog	7801 Otis Avenue	Huntington Park	90255	2	AA158330	C99-0099	\$750.00	10/16/98	9/24/98
Shell Deol Auto Care	31301 Alvarado Niles Road	Union City	94587	1	AK163204	C99-0103	\$250.00	10/22/98	9/25/98
J S Smog	15655 7th Street	Victorville	92392	1	AC198749	C99-0105	\$250.00	10/14/98	9/25/98
Haig Auto Smog	333 West Mission #B	Escondido	92025	1	AM099239	C99-0107	\$250.00	11/6/98	9/25/98
Samir's Hign Tech Auto Repair	5701 Lankershim Blvd. #A	North Hollywood	91601	2	AL181098	C99-0109	\$750.00	10/26/98	9/28/98
Lemes Group	15481 7th Street	Victorville	92392	2	AM143791	C99-0111	\$750.00	11/10/98	9/28/98
Spee Dee Oil Change & Tune	U1481 South West Blvd.	Rohnert Park	94928	1	AE160836	C99-0113	\$250.00	11/11/98	9/29/98
Quality Tune Up Shops #55	3291 Sonoma Blvd.	Vallejo	94590	1	AK169601	C99-0115	\$250.00	11/9/98	9/29/98
Dan's Automotive	7501 University Avenue	La Mesa	91941	1	AE183684	C99-0117	\$250.00	11/2/98	9/30/98
Purrfect Auto Service 91	407 Topeka Street	Oceanside	92054	1	AK191707	C99-0119	\$250.00	11/6/98	9/30/98
Elkhorne 76 Autopulse	5411 Diablo Drive	Sacramento	95842	1	AM197395	C99-0121	\$250.00	10/30/98	9/30/98
Alliance Service Center	15901 Main Street	Hesperia	92345	3	AA170547	C99-0123	\$1,500.00	10/26/98	9/30/98
Dave's Automotive Repair	15940 Walnut Street	Hesperia	92345	1	AG079875	C99-0125	\$250.00	10/14/98	9/30/98
Econo Lube N Tune #23	1618 Mission Avenue	Oceanside	92054	1	AH174196	C99-0127	\$250.00	11/17/98	10/5/98
Plaza Smog & Auto Repair	3575 Merrill Avenue	Riverside	92506	1	AH185043	C99-0129	\$250.00	11/19/98	10/5/98
Palms to Pines Chevron	72801 Highway 111	Palm Desert	92260	1	AD078040	C99-0131	\$250.00	11/13/98	10/5/98
Dyno Smog	6311 Magnolia	Riverside	92506	2	AA197703	C99-0133	\$750.00	12/9/98	10/5/98
Alamo Chevron	3177 Danville Highway	Alamo	94507	1	AJ168957	C99-0139	\$250.00	12/4/98	10/6/98
Santa Fe Auto Repair	1045 North Santa Fe	Vista	92084	1	AD194114	C99-0141	\$250.00	11/18/98	10/14/98
Jeff Hood's Used Cars	20924 Avenue 152	Porterville	93257	1	AM066702	C99-0143	\$250.00	11/5/98	10/14/98
Auto Smog	2070 Hacienda Drive #J	Vista	92083	1	AK163554	C99-0145	\$250.00	11/16/98	10/14/98
El Dorado Car Wash	1250 West Pacific Coast Hwy.	Wilmington	90744	1	AL197274	C99-0147	\$250.00	11/30/98	10/21/98
Main Smog	16104 South Main Street	Carson	90248	1	AC182783	C99-0149	\$250.00	11/30/98	10/21/98
Shawn's Automotive	297 East 5th Street	San Bernardino	92410	1	AC198659	C99-0151	\$250.00	12/15/98	10/21/98
Paul Martin Automotive	841 East Lacey Blvd.	Hanford	93230	1	AE020643	C99-0152	\$250.00	11/10/98	10/21/98
Sierra Unocal	1208 South Mooney	Visalia	93277	2	AM151010	C99-0154	\$750.00	12/18/98	10/21/98
Run Rite Auto Service	2200 Vineyard Avenue #J	Escondido	92029	1	AF189614	C99-0157	\$250.00	1/11/99	10/27/98
Rashid Shell Auto Repair	3300 South La Cienega Blvd	Los Angeles	90016	2	AL175532	C99-0158	\$750.00	11/27/98	10/28/98

Inspection Program *(continued from page 1)*

shows an inadequate level of competence, that technician may be referred to a local college to take training courses to update his or her skills.

At the same time, stations and technicians who demonstrate acceptable performance levels will be acknowledged and recognized for high-quality performance.

Along with the testing and repair evaluations, BAR representatives will inform stations of all general Smog Check requirements, and will review such items as the following:

- ❖ Documentation of repairs completed and estimates related to vehicles that fail the smog inspection.
- ❖ Proper signage and posting of licenses.

- ❖ Inspection of all required equipment (see list of the required equipment, right).
- ❖ Verification of the accuracy of the gas calibration on the Test Analyzer System (TAS).
- ❖ Check of the sample hose and probe for leaks.
- ❖ Evaluation of the maintenance of the sample filter.

In some cases, a complete gas audit and/or a calibration check may be performed on the dynamometer.

“Helping station owners and technicians recognize the importance of competent diagnosis and repair is an important aspect in gaining consumer acceptance of the Smog Check program and air quality benefits,” Vanderlaan noted. ❖

Check List of Equipment and Other Requirements

- Current and valid Automotive Repair Dealer registration
 - Current and valid Smog Check station license
 - Automotive Repair Dealer sign
 - Official Smog Check sign
 - Inspection price sign (must show price of an initial test, pre-test (if any) after-repair test, and the price of the certificate)
 - Notice to Motorists (Cost Limit sign)
 - Licensed Smog Check Technician
 - Multiple copy invoice/repair order
 - Current Smog Check Inspection Manual
 - Automotive Computer Diagnostic and Repair Manuals (manuals or computer-based program form)
 - Emission Control System Application and Repair Manuals
 - 1974 to current domestic cars
 - 1974 to current import cars & trucks
 - 1974 to current domestic light-duty trucks
 - 1974 to current domestic heavy-duty trucks
 - vacuum routing diagram
 - computer fault code definitions
 - functional test specifications
 - electronic component locator
 - Other Tools Required
 - computer fault code retrieval equipment
 - ammeter
 - timing light with advance tester
 - compression tester
 - tachometer/dwell meter
 - dowel gauge for fuel fill pipe restrictors
 - fuel pressure gauge (fuel injected capable)
 - vacuum gauge
 - ignition analyzer/oscilloscope
 - digital volt/ohm meter
 - propane enrichment kit
 - hand vacuum pump
 - BAR-Certified Analyzer
 - maintenance warranty or agreement
 - manufacturer's instruction manual
 - single-party dedicated telephone line
 - passes calibration and leak check
 - bar code scanner
 - MCI business agreement
- Additional Equipment Requirements for BAR-97 Enhanced Area Stations**
- BAR-certified dynamometer
 - digital storage oscilloscope meeting BAR specifications
 - approved fuel cap test equipment
 - BAR-certified cooling fan

Calendar of Coming Events 1999



March

- 17 Burbank—General Meeting**
Consumer Protection & Smog Check
Burbank Airport Hilton
2500 Hollywood Way
Call (818) 843-6000 for directions
6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
- 23 San Ramon—General Meeting**
Consumer Protection & Smog Check
San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive
Call (925) 867-9200 for directions
6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
- 26 Deadline** to register for May 1999 ASE Exams.

April

- 6 Ontario—General Meeting**
Consumer Protection & Smog Check
Ontario Airport Marriott
2200 East Holt Blvd.
Call (909) 975-5000 for directions
6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

- 12 San Diego—General Meeting**
Consumer Protection & Smog Check
Travelodge Hotel-Harbor Island
1960 Harbor Island Drive
Call (619) 291-6700 for directions
6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
- 15 Deadline** to Purchase Fuel Cap Testing Equipment and to Get Manufacturer Guarantees of Software Installation by July 1
- 15 Fresno—General Meeting**
Consumer Protection & Smog Check
Radisson Hotel
2233 Ventura Street
Call (559) 268-1000 for directions
6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
- 28 Sacramento—Consumer Roundtable**
Department of Consumer Affairs
400 R Street
Time: To Be Announced

May

- 4, 6, 11 ASE 1999 Exams**



is published by the
**California Department
of Consumer Affairs'**
Bureau of Automotive Repair
400 R Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

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 - Canoga Park (818) 596-4400
 - Sacramento (916) 255-4200
 - Culver City (310) 410-0024
 - San Jose (408) 277-1860
 - Fresno (209) 445-5015
 - South El Monte .. (818) 575-6934
 - Fullerton (714) 680-7851
 - Hayward (510) 785-1961
 - Oceanside (760) 439-0942

 - DCA Cashiering (916) 322-7002
 - DCA Licensing... (916) 322-4010
 - ET Help Desk (916) 255-4476
 - MCI (800) 731-SMOG
(Then press 5 for technical support)
- Consumer Assistance and
Referee Center: (800) 622-7733**
- DCA HOTLINE: (800) 952-5210**

Little Scoops...

- ❖ ASE mailed the November 1998 exam results and certificates and updated its database of documents used for verification in mid-February. Registration booklets for the May 1999 (see calendar, page 5) exam were also shipped in February. Deadline for registration for the May exam is March 26. Registration information can also be found on the ASE website at www.asecert.org/reginfo/tech.
- ❖ BAR's Referee Program will be featured at the Government Technology Conference May 10-14 in Sacramento and will showcase BAR's partnerships with counties, community colleges, and the auto repair industry to provide consumer services.
- ❖ The Low-Income Repair Assistance Program (LIRAP) is now operational in Sacramento, San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties. More than 60 Gross Polluter Certification pilot stations statewide are under contract with the DCA/BAR to participate in the program statewide.
- ❖ Likewise, the number of motorists volunteering to retire their vehicles is steadily increasing. More than 104 vehicles have been retired since the Vehicle Retirement Program (VRP) began in November 1998.
- ❖ Coming soon: a DCA/BAR-sponsored public education campaign about the health effects of smog. A recent study, funded by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), shows that lung growth is five percent less among children living in the state's smoggiest locations and that children with weaker lungs are more likely to develop chronic respiratory diseases as adults.
- ❖ Telephone inquiries to DCA's Consumer Information Center are steadily increasing as BAR's new LIRAP and VRP gear up statewide. Calls in January 1999 were up 15 percent over December 1998 and up 67 percent over January 1998.