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8	BEFOR	ЕТНЕ
9	DEPARTMENT OF CO FOR THE BUREAU OF A	ONSUMER AFFAIRS
10	STATE OF C.	
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12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 77/17-16353
	CESAR ORTIZ, dba	
13	ABC SPEEDEE LUBE 4551 E. Gage Avenue	ACCUSATION
14	Bell, CA 90201	
15	Mailing Address: 3875 E. 3 rd Street	
16	Los Angeles, CA 90063	
17	Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No. ARD 252076	
18	Brake Station License No. BS 252076, Class C	
19	Lamp Station License No. LS 252076, Class A	
20		
21	and	
22	FRANCISCO J. BRAMBILA 13143 Foxley Drive	
23	Whittier, CA 90602	
24	Smog Check Inspector No. EO 33342 Smog Check Repair Technician License No.	
25	EI 33342 Brake Adjuster License No. BA 33342,	
26	Class C Lamp Adjuster License No. LA 33342,	
27	Class A,	
28	Respondents.	

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

- 1.e Patrick Dorais (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity ase the Chief of the Bureau of Automotive Repair, Department of Consumer Affairs.
- 2.e In 2007, the Bureau of Automotive Repair issued Automotive Repair Dealere Registration Number ARD 252076 to Cesar Ortiz, dba ABC Speedee Lube. The Automotive Repair Dealer Registration was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on September 30, 2019, unless renewed.
- 3.e On March 6, 2008, the Bureau of Automotive Repair issued Brake Station Licensee Number BS 252076, class C, and Lamp Station Number LS 252076, class A, to Cesar Ortiz, dba ABC Speedee Lube. The Brake Station License and Lamp Station License were in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on September 30, 2019, unless renewed.
- 4.e Respondent Francisco J. Brambila previously held Advanced Emission Specialiste Technician EA 33342, which was scheduled to expire in December 2012. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 3340.28, subdivision (e), upon Respondent's election, said license was renewed by the Bureau of Automotive Repair on November 13, 2012, as Smog Check Inspector License Number EO 33342 and Smog Check Repair Technician License Number EI 33342. The Smog Check Inspector License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on December 31, 2019, unless renewed. The Smog Check Repair Technician License expired on December 31, 2014, and has not been renewed.
- 5.e In 2007, the Bureau of Automotive Repair issued Brake Adjuster License Numbere BA 33342, class C, to Francisco J. Brambila. The Brake Adjuster License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on December 31, 2019, unless renewed.
- 6.e In 2007, the Bureau of Automotive Repair issued Lamp Adjuster License Number LAe 33342, class A, to Francisco J. Brambila. The Brake Adjuster License was in full force and effect

1	(a)e Violates any section of the Business and Professions Code whiche relates to his or her licensed activities.	
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3	(c)e Violates any of the regulations promulgated by the director pursuante to this chapter.	
5	(d)e Commits any act involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit wherebye another is injured.	
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7	(h)e Violates or attempts to violate the provisions of this chapter relatinge	
8	to the particular activity for which he or she is licensed	
9	10.e BPC section 9884.9, subdivision (a), requires an automotive repair dealer to provide	
10	written estimate to a customer before commencing work on a job.	
11	11.e BPC section 9889.16 states:e	
12	Whenever a licensed adjuster in a licensed station upon an inspection or	
13	requirements of the Vehicle Code, he shall, when requested by the owner or driver of the vehicle, issue a certificate of adjustment on a form prescribed by the director, which certificate shall contain the date of issuance, the make and registration number	
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15		
16		
17	12.e BPC section 9889.22 states:e	
18	The willful making of any false statement or entry with regard to a material matter in any oath, affidavit, certificate of compliance or noncompliance, or application form which is required by this chapter [the Automotive Repair Act] or Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 44000) of Part 5 of Division 26 of the Health and Safety Code constitutes perjury and is punishable as provided in the Penal Code.	
19 20		
21		
22	13.e Section 44072.2 of the Health and Safety Code states, in pertinent part:e	
23	"The director may suspend, revoke, or take other disciplinary action against a license as	
24	provided in this article if the licensee, or any partner, officer, or director thereof, does any of the	
25	following:	
26	56.4.0c	
27	"(d) Commits any act involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit whereby another is	
28	injured.	

14.e California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 3316, subdivision (d), provides ine pertinent part:

"Effective April 1, 1999, licensed stations shall purchase certificates of adjustment from the bureau for a fee of three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) each and shall not purchase or otherwise obtain such certificates from any other source. Full payment is required at the time certificates are ordered. Certificates are not exchangeable following delivery. A licensed station shall not sell or otherwise transfer unused certificates of adjustment. Issuance of a lamp adjustment certificate shall be in accordance with the following provisions:

. .

"(2) Where all of the lamps, lighting equipment, and related electrical systems on a vehicle have been inspected and found to be in compliance with all requirements of the Vehicle Code and bureau regulations, the certificate shall certify that the entire system meets all of those requirements.

15.e California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 3321, subdivision (2), providese in pertinent part:

"Effective April 1, 1999, licensed stations shall purchase certificates of adjustment from the bureau for a fee of three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) and shall not purchase or otherwise obtain such certificates from any other source. A licensed station shall not sell or otherwise transfer unused certificates of adjustment. Full payment is required at the time certificates are ordered. Certificates are not exchangeable following delivery. Issuance of a brake adjustment certificate shall be in accordance with the following provisions:

. .

"(2) Where the entire brake system on any vehicle has been inspected or tested and found to be in compliance with all requirements of the Vehicle Code and bureau regulations, and the vehicle has been road-tested, the certificate shall certify that the entire system meets all such requirements.

. . . .

16.e California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 3505, subdivision (a), states:e "All adjusting, inspecting, servicing, and repairing of brake systems and lamp systems for the purpose of issuing any certificate of compliance or adjustment shall be performed in official stations, by official adjusters, in accordance with the following, in descending order of precedence, as applicable:

- (1)eVehicle Manufacturers' current standards, specifications and recommended procedures,e as published in the manufacturers' vehicle service and repair manuals.
- (2) Current standards, specifications, procedures, directives, manuals, bulletins ande instructions issued by vehicle and equipment or device manufacturers.
- (3)eStandards, specifications and recommended procedures found in current industrystandard reference manuals and periodicals published by nationally recognized repair information providers.
- (4)eThe bureau's *Handbook for Brake Adjusters and Stations*, May 2015, which is herebye incorporated by reference.
- (5)eThe bureau's *Handbook for Lamp Adjusters and Stations*, May 2015, which is herebye incorporated by reference."

COST RECOVERY

17.e BPC section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that a Board may request thee administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

UNDERCOVER OPERATION #1: 1998 CHEVROLET

18.e On November 8, 2017, an undercover operator of the Bureau ("operator") took thee Bureau's 1998 Chevrolet to the ABC Speedee Lube station and requested brake and lamp inspections. At that time, the vehicle's left front brake rotor was undersized and not within manufacturer specifications, while its right rear brake drum was oversized and also not within manufacturer specifications. In addition, both of the vehicle's headlamps had been misadjusted such that they were not within allowable specification for proper illumination. Due to these

conditions, the Bureau-documented vehicle was incapable of passing a brake or lamp inspection without appropriate adjustments and/or repairs.

(Respondent Ortiz), Respondent Francisco J. Brambila (Respondent Brambila) agreed to perform

19.e While working as an employee of Respondent Cesar Ortiz, dba ABC Speedee Lubee

brake and lamp inspections on the 1998 Chevrolet, but no written estimate was provided. The Bureau operator was in a position to visually observe the vehicle while Respondent Brambila performed the inspections. At no time did Respondent Brambila use any equipment to determine whether the aim of the headlights was within the allowable range, and at no time did Respondent Brambila perform a proper brake inspection by measuring the thickness of the brake rotors and drums or performing a brake road test as required by state law. Despite the fact that he failed to perform legitimate brake and lamp inspections in compliance with state law, Respondent Brambila charged for and received payment for performing those inspections. In addition, Respondent Brambila issued Brake Certificate No. and Lamp Certificate No. LA fraudulently certifying under penalty of perjury that proper brake and lamp inspections had been performed and that the vehicle had passed both inspections. After Respondent issued brake and lamp certificates for the 1998 Chevrolet, a Bureau program representative re-examined the vehicle and documented that Respondent had failed to measure the brake drums and rotors or make any adjustments to the headlamps. Accordingly, the Bureau program representative confirmed that the vehicle should not have passed Respondent's brake and lamp inspections.

UNDERCOVER OPERATION #2: 1996 Chevrolet

20.e On February 13, 2018, an undercover Bureau operator took the Bureau's 1996e Chevrolet to Respondent Ortiz's station and requested brake and lamp inspections. At that time, the vehicle's right front brake rotor was undersized and not within manufacturer specifications, while its left rear brake drum was oversized and also not within manufacturer specifications. In addition, both of the vehicle's headlamps had been misadjusted such that they were not within allowable specification for proper illumination. Due to these conditions, the Bureau-documented vehicle was incapable of passing a brake or lamp inspection without appropriate adjustments and/or repairs.

21.a While working as an employee of Respondent Ortiz, Respondent Brambila performed brake and lamp inspections on the 1996 Chevrolet. A written estimate was not provided to the Bureau operator. The Bureau operator was in a position to visually observe the vehicle while Respondent Brambila performed the inspections. At no time did Respondent Brambila use any equipment to determine whether the aim of the headlights was within the allowable range, and at no time did Respondent Brambila perform a proper brake inspection by measuring the thickness of the brake rotors and drums or performing a brake road test as required by state law. Despite the fact that Respondent Brambila failed to perform legitimate brake and lamp inspections in compliance with state law, the Bureau operator was charged for the performance those inspections. In addition, Respondent Brambila issued Brake Certificate No. 1 Lamp Certificate No. fraudulently certifying under penalty of perjury that proper brake and lamp inspections had been performed and that the vehicle had passed both inspections. After Respondent issued brake and lamp certificates for the 1996 Chevrolet, a Bureau program representative re-examined the vehicle and documented that Respondent had failed to measure the brake drums and rotors or make any adjustments to the headlamps. Accordingly, the Bureau program representative confirmed that the vehicle should not have passed Respondent's brake and lamp inspections.

UNDERCOVER OPERATION #3: 2002 Toyota

22.a On April 27, 2018, an undercover Bureau operator took the Bureau's 2002 Toyota toa the Respondent Ortiz's station and requested brake and lamp inspections. At that time, the vehicle's right front brake rotor was undersized and not within manufacturer specifications, while its left rear brake rotor was also undersized and not within manufacturer specifications. In addition, the vehicle's right headlamp had been misadjusted such that it was not within allowable specification for proper illumination. Due to these conditions, the Bureau-documented vehicle was incapable of passing a brake or lamp inspection without appropriate adjustments and/or repairs.

23.a While working as an employee of Respondent Ortiz, Respondent Brambila agreed toa perform brake and lamp inspections on the 2002 Toyota, but no written estimate was provided.

The Bureau operator was in a position to visually observe the vehicle while Respondent Brambila performed the inspections. At no time did Respondent Brambila use any equipment to determine whether the aim of the headlights was within the allowable range, and at no time did Respondent Brambila perform a proper brake inspection by measuring the thickness of the brake rotors and drums or performing a brake road test as required by state law. Despite the fact that he failed to perform legitimate brake and lamp inspections in compliance with state law, Respondent Brambila charged for and received payment for performing those inspections. In addition, Respondent Brambila issued Brake Certificate No.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Untrue or Misleading Statements)

24.e Respondent Ortiz's registration is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to BPCe section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(1), in that Respondent's employee made statements that he knew or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known to be untrue or misleading, as follows:

a.e Respondent's employee represented that he had performed proper brake and lampe inspections on the Bureau's 1998 Chevrolet, 1996 Chevrolet and 2002 Toyota in compliance with Bureau Regulations and pertinent provisions of the Vehicle Code when, in fact, he had not.

b.e Respondent's employee represented to the undercover operators that the Bureau'se 1998 Chevrolet, 1996 Chevrolet and 2002 Toyota had passed their respective brake and lamp inspections when, in fact, those vehicles were not capable of passing brake or lamp inspections.

c.e Respondent issued, and signed under penalty of perjury, brake certificates and lampe certificates for the Bureau's 1998 Chevrolet, 1996 Chevrolet and 2002 Toyota when, in fact, those vehicles were not capable of passing brake or lamp inspections.

Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 18 through 23, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Fraud)

25.e Respondent Ortiz's registration is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to BPCe section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(4), in that Respondent's employee committed acts that constitute fraud by obtaining payment from Bureau operators for the performance of proper brake and lamp inspections on the Bureau's 1998 Chevrolet, 1996 Chevrolet and 2002 Toyota when, in fact, he failed to perform those inspections in compliance with Bureau Regulations and pertinent provisions of the Vehicle Code. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 18 through 23, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Comply with the Bus. & Prof. Code)

- 26.e Respondent Ortiz's registration is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to BPCe section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(6), in that Respondent's employee failed to comply with provisions of that Code in the following material respects:
- a.e <u>Section 9889.16</u>: Respondent's employee issued, and signed under penalty of e perjury, brake and lamp certificates for the Bureau's 1998 Chevrolet, 1996 Chevrolet and 2002 Toyota when, in fact, the vehicles were not in compliance with applicable state law.
- c. <u>Section 9889.22:</u> Respondent's employee willfully made false statements or entriese on the brake certificates and lamp certificates he issued for the Bureau's 1998 Chevrolet, 1996 Chevrolet and 2002 Toyota, as set forth in paragraphs 18 through 23, above.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violations of Regulations)

27.e Respondent Ortiz's registration is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to BPCe section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(6), in that Respondent's employee failed to comply with provisions of California Code of Regulations, title 16, in the following material respects:

a.e <u>Section 3305, subdivision (a)</u>: Respondent's employee failed to perform thee inspections of the brake systems and inspection and adjustment of the lamp systems on the Bureau's 1998 Chevrolet, 1996 Chevrolet and 2002 Toyota in accordance with the specifications, instructions, and directives issued by the Bureau and the vehicle manufacturer, as set forth in paragraphs 18 through 23, above.

b.e <u>Section 3316, subdivision (d)(2)</u>: Respondent's employee issued lamp certificates toe the Bureau's 1998 Chevrolet, 1996 Chevrolet and 2002 Toyota when all of the lamps, lighting equipment, and/or related electrical systems on those vehicles were not in compliance with Bureau regulations, as set forth in paragraphs 18 through 23, above.

c.e <u>Section 3321, subdivision (c)(2)</u>: Respondent's employee issued brake certificatese for Bureau's 1998 Chevrolet, 1996 Chevrolet and 2002 Toyota when the brake systems on those vehicles had not been completely tested or inspected, as set forth in paragraphs 18 through 23, above.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Comply with the Bus. & Prof. Code)

28.e Respondent's brake and lamp station licenses are subject to disciplinary actione pursuant to BPC section 9889.3, subdivisions (a) and (h), in that Respondent violated the provisions of BPC sections 9884.9, subdivision (a), 9889.16, relating to Respondent's licensed activities. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 18 through 23, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Comply with Regulations)

29.e Respondent's brake and lamp station licenses are subject to disciplinary actione pursuant to BPC section 9889.3, subdivision (c), in that Respondent failed to comply with the provisions of California Code of Regulations, title 16, sections 3305, subdivision (a), 3316, subdivision (d)(2), and 3321, subdivision (c)(2). Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 18 through 23, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Acts of Dishonesty, Fraud or Deceit)

30.s Respondent Brambila's brake and lamp adjuster licenses are subject to disciplinarys action pursuant to BPC section 9889.3, subdivision (d), in that he committed acts involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 18 through 23, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Comply with the Bus. & Prof. Code)

31.s Respondent Brambila's brake and lamp adjuster licenses are subject to disciplinarys action pursuant to BPC section 9889.3, subdivisions (a) and (h), in that he violated the provisions of Bus. & Prof. Code sections 9884.9, subdivision (a), 9889.16, and 9889.22 relating to his licensed activities. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 18 through 23, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violations of Regulations)

32.s Respondent Brambila's brake and lamp adjuster licenses are subject to disciplinary actions pursuant to BPC section 9889.3, subdivision (c), in that he failed to comply with the provisions of California Code of Regulations, title 16, sections 3305, subdivision (a), 3316, subdivision (d)(2), and 3321, subdivision (c)(2). Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 18 through 23, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dishonesty, Fraud, or Deceit)

33.s Respondent Brambila's smog check inspector license and smog check repairs technician license are subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 44072.2, subdivision (d), in that Respondent Brambila's committed acts involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit whereby another was injured. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 18 through 23, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

OTHER MATTERS

34.e Section 9884.7, subdivision (c), of the BPC states that "the director may suspend,e revoke, or place on probation the registration for all places of business operated in this state by an automotive repair dealer upon a finding that the automotive repair dealer has, or is, engaged in a course of repeated and willful violations of this chapter, or regulations adopted pursuant to it."

35.e Section 9889.9 of the BPC states that "[w]hen any license has been revoked ore suspended following a hearing under the provisions of this article [Article 7 (commencing with section 9889.1) of the Automotive Repair Act], any additional license issued under Articles 5 and 6 of this chapter in the name of the licensee may be likewise revoked or suspended by the director."

36.e Section 44072.8 of the HSC states that when a license has been revoked or suspendede following a hearing, any additional license issued under the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program (Health & Saf. Code sec. 44000, et seq.) in the name of the licensee may be likewise revoked or suspended by the director.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Director of Consumer Affairs issue a decision:

- 1.e Revoking or suspending Automotive Repair Dealer Registration Number ARDe252076, issued to Cesar Ortiz, dba ABC Speedee Lube;
- 2.e Revoking or suspending Brake Station License Number BS 252076, class C, issued toe Cesar Ortiz, dba ABC Speedee Lube;
- 3.e Revoking or suspending Lamp Station License Number LS 252076, class A, issued to Cesar Ortiz, dba ABC Speedee Lube;
- 4. Revoking or suspending Brake Adjuster License Number BA 33342, class C, issuede to Francisco J. Brambila;
- 5.e Revoking or suspending Lamp Adjuster License Number LA 33342, class A, issuede to Francisco J. Brambila33342, class C, to Francisco J. Brambila;