

Smog Check Vehicle Inspection Reports

PUBLISHING & ONLINE INFORMATION BRANCH • COMMUNICATION PROGRAMS DIVISION • © 2017 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Effective: Immediately

New Information

Effective February 9, 2017, the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) began an onboard diagnostic (OBD) data check in certain smog check stations, due to a change or enhancement to the BAR OBD inspection system (OIS).

Some vehicles cannot be issued certificates by a smog station because the vehicle's OBD system data is inappropriate for the vehicle being tested. However, certificates may be issued for those vehicles by a referee.

Procedures

If a customer submits a Smog Check Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) that shows a "DATA CHECK FAIL" as the overall test result:

- Accept the VIR as a *Failed* smog test.
- Collect fees as appropriate.
- Refer motorists to the following message on BAR's website at www.bar.ca.gov/Consumer/Referee/Referee_Centers.html:

Referee centers also reinspect vehicles that receive a "DATA CHECK FAIL" during a BAR-OIS inspection. A "DATA CHECK FAIL" occurs when data downloaded from the vehicle's OBD system during its last inspection is inappropriate for that vehicle. In order for the vehicle to receive a Smog Check certificate, the Referee must perform an inspection and verify the appropriateness of the data. Note that once the Referee issues a Smog Check certificate to your vehicle, it may be inspected at other stations during the next inspection cycle. A Referee inspection appointment may be scheduled by calling 1-800-622-7733.

Background

Passing smog test results are transmitted electronically to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and verified programmatically during the processing of automated transactions. After completion of a smog test, the smog station provides the customer a Smog Check VIR that contains smog test results. Smog Check VIRs which indicate a vehicle failed a smog check may be shown to DMV as substantiation for issuing a TOP, when needed.

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available online at www.dmv.ca.gov under Publications was made via California DMV's Automated Email Alert System in April 2017.

References

California Code of Regulations §3340.42.2(c)(7)
California Health and Safety Code §§44011, 44015, 44036(b)(3)(K), and 44015(a)(2)
Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual §§3.2 and 25.5

Contact

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo.